

# THE HONGKONG SUGAR INDUSTRY AND THE JAPANESE TARIFF.

In the appendix to the report of the Chamber of Commerce there is some interesting correspondence with reference to the effect of the tariff established under the new treaty with Japan on the sugar trade of Hongkong. To make the history of the question complete, however, we must turn to the Blue Book containing "Correspondence respecting the Revision of the Treaty arrangements between Great Britain and Japan." In a memorandum of an interview held at the Foreign Office on the 27th June, 1894, we find that Mr. BERTIE referred to the omission of sugar from the conventional tariff. The question of the duty to be levied on sugar under the new tariff was, he said, a very serious one, in view of the importance of the sugar refining industry of Hongkong, which a high customs duty would destroy. He suggested, however, that, apart from the duty it might be decided to accept, an arrangement might be made stipulating, as was done in the case of spirits in the Cobden treaty with France, that, should the Japanese Government find it necessary at a future time to establish an excise tax, or inland duty, on sugar manufactured in Japan, an increased duty of an equivalent amount might be imposed on British refined sugar. Viscount AOKI replied that one reason which had induced his Government to omit sugar from the new conventional tariff was that if a duty of 20 per cent. *ad valorem*, which had appeared in previous draft tariffs, were inserted, attention would be at once drawn to it as being a much higher duty than the rates attached to other articles of British importation, and objections would be made. At another interview held on the 12th July Viscount AOKI observed that the demands of Her Majesty's Government in respect of sugar had been received with much surprise by the Japanese Government, who, in making their last concessions, considered that they were in possession of the entire views of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the tariff; and he drew attention to the tariff presented by the foreign delegates at the Tokyo conference of 1886, which provided for duties of 20 per cent. on refined sugar and 15 per cent. on non-refined sugar. Mr. BERTIE, in reply, said he considered the sugar proposal very prejudicial to the trade of Hongkong, and, after consultation with Sir R. MEADE, informed Viscount AOKI that the Colonial Office objected to it very strongly, and would, if Japan insisted, be obliged to refer to Hongkong and the leading merchants in the city interested in sugar, thus causing considerable delay in the negotiations without a fair prospect of success in the end. The Japanese Government were, however, very desirous that the treaty should be signed at once, and in order to avoid delay Viscount AOKI agreed to accept the proposal that refined sugar should be inserted in the conventional tariff at a duty of 10 per cent. and that any tax which it might be considered necessary at any time to levy on the production or manufacture of refined sugar in Japan might be counterbalanced by an additional duty equivalent to such tax. The treaty was accordingly signed with that provision included, and in a despatch from the Colonial Office to the Foreign Office the Marquis of RIPON's thanks were conveyed to the Earl of KIMBERLEY for the action taken in the interests of the Hongkong sugar refiners with respect to the duty on refined sugar.

The satisfaction of the Marquis of RIPON, however, does not seem to have been shared

by the General Managers of the China Sugar Refining Company, for on the publication of the new treaty and tariff they wrote to the Chamber of Commerce requesting the Chamber to take such steps as it might deem most desirable to represent in the proper quarter "the discriminating effect of the new treaty against the chief industry of the colony." The Chamber accordingly forwarded the letter to the local Government, which sent it on to the Colonial Office, from which a reply was in due time received. Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. pointed out in their letter that under the tariff still in force refined sugar was subjected to an import duty of 24 cents per picul, while under the new tariff 10 per cent. was to be imposed, which within six months was to be converted into a specific duty on the basis of the medium of prices during the six months preceding the date of the protocol. It happened, Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., went on to say, that the prices ruling during the six months in question were higher than at any time in the history of the trade, and it followed that the duty would be calculated upon an abnormally high value, probably leading to a specific duty of 90 cents per picul; also that under the existing tariff raw sugar had been paying an import duty of 13 cents per picul, whereas in the new tariff no mention was made of raw sugar, the omission no doubt being accounted for by the Japanese contemplating the introduction of the manufacture of refined sugar upon an extended scale, and so long as raw sugar was free the Japanese factories would be bountied, as against those of Hongkong, to the extent of the duty levied upon refined sugar imported. It was also suggested in the letter that the provision as to the duty being raised to an extent equivalent to any excise tax to be levied on Japanese refined sugar might be made to operate merely as a means of levying an additional duty on refined sugar from Hongkong, as there was nothing to prevent the Japanese Government encouraging refineries under state subsidy and imposing an excise tax equal to such subvention, which tax would also be levied upon the Hongkong sugars already bearing the initial duty of 90 cents per picul. This letter was forwarded to the Colonial Office, and in reply copies of departmental correspondence that had taken place on the subject and an answer by the Foreign Office to Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.'s representations were sent out. On the 28th June, 1894, the Foreign Office wrote to the Colonial Office stating that the retention of a free hand in respect of sugar was a fundamental part of the Japanese proposals, but that Lord KIMBERLEY was anxious if possible to safeguard the interests of the Hongkong sugar refineries, and asking what was the highest duty on refined sugar to which, in Lord RIPON's opinion, it would be safe to assent; it being pointed out at the same time that in the Treaty Revision conference of 1882 at Tokyo Sir HARRY PARKES consented to a Japanese duty of 20 per cent., that in the later conference of 1886-87 this rate of duty was confirmed by the commercial committee of the conference, and that the conclusions reached by the two conferences in respect of the proposed Japanese tariff were accepted by Her Majesty's Government and subsequently constituted Lord SALISBURY's tariff proposals of 1890. At the same time the alternative was suggested of a minimum tariff of 10 per cent. with an additional duty equivalent to any excise tax that might be imposed on Japanese refined sugar. This proposal, after consultation with Mr. WILLIAM KESWICK, was accepted by the Colonial Office. The reply of the Foreign Office to Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.'s representations is embodied in the following

extract from a despatch to the Colonial Office:—

I am to suggest that Sir William Robinson should also be informed that the duties on sugar to be levied under the new tariff will be subject to the most favoured nation article of the treaty. Moreover, if the Japanese Government should levy an excise tax on refined sugar, and give it back by way of bounty, it would be open to Her Majesty's Government to contend that it was not levied at all, and so that extra import duties could not be imposed. The Japanese Government have, however, by the new treaty a right, as they have by the old treaties, to give a bounty if no excise is levied.

The supplementary convention referred to in article 1 of the protocol has not yet been concluded, the limit of time for negotiating having been extended by agreement with the Japanese Government for six months, that is, until the 16th of July next.

As regards the question raised by Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. relative to the price of sugar having been exceptionally high during the six months preceding the treaty, I am to enclose a statement showing that English prices, which mainly govern the world's prices, so far from being high were abnormally low, only two years out of the sixteen quoted having been below those of the first half of 1894. It is true that for the last six months of 1894 (i.e., after the treaty was signed) the prices were still lower, but that does not affect the argument. It is also true that the silver prices of sugar were higher owing to the low price of silver, but this is a separate question.

With reference to the calculation that the rate of ten per cent. *ad valorem* on refined sugar would mean a specific duty of ninety cents per picul, I am to forward the enclosed tables of Customs' duties on sugar in European countries and the United States and in British possessions. These tables show that the Japanese duty on refined sugar so far from being exorbitant as compared with the rates levied in foreign countries is quite the contrary. Even if the duty of ten per cent. *ad valorem* becomes ninety cents per picul, or about one and sixpence per hundred weight, this rate may be contrasted with duties of frequently ten times that amount. Taking the colonies also, it will be seen that considerably more than half those enumerated have rates much higher than the Japanese duty.

A provision for preventing Japan from taking off the duties from raw sugar unless the refined sugar duties were also reduced would have been most unusual, and it would have been necessary to press for provisions in regard to proportionate duties between yarns and tissues, pig iron and iron wares, and any other half-made and fully manufactured articles.

Duties are, of course, not pleasant things to those whose goods they affect, but on the whole we think Hongkong has reason to congratulate itself that the local sugar industry has not been more adversely affected by the new Japanese tariff than is actually the case. The 10 per cent. duty, while it will no doubt give the proposed Japanese refineries an appreciable advantage in Japan over their Hongkong competitors, will not enable them to cut the latter out altogether, at all events for many years to come, for Hongkong offers great natural advantages for the industry. In the meantime the China market is steadily growing, and will more than make up for any falling off there may be in the demand from Japan. According to Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.'s letter to the Chamber of Commerce the capacity of the refineries here is not less than 325,000 tons of raw sugar annually of a value of £3,500,000, and the export of refined sugar to Japan in 1893 probably amounted to between 70,000 and 80,000 tons, representing a value of over £1,000,000 sterling. That of course is a very large trade, and it has grown up practically within the last twelve years. But the growth of the sugar trade in China has been even more remarkable and promises constant and profitable employment for the Hongkong refineries, we trust, for all time to come. There may be the competition of the Japanese refineries to count with by and by, for they will naturally try to cultivate the China market, but on equal terms the Hongkong refineries will always be able to hold their own. Ten years ago, that is, in 1884, the total import of sugar into China, brown and white, was, according to the Imperial Maritime Customs returns, 110,409 piculs of a value of Hk. Tls. 440,784. Last year, 1894, the import amounted to no less than 1,823,891 piculs of a value of Hk. Tls. 9,507,153, or say 107,288 tons of a value of



a million and a half sterling, on an average of last year's exchange. No distinction is made in the returns between refined and raw sugar, but Mr. H. Korsch, the Statistical Secretary of the Customs, in his report says:—"The sugar which appears in the import table for 1,823,000 piculs is largely the product of Hongkong refineries (and originally of Chinese provenance), for which commodity there seems to be an ever-increasing demand, the deliveries during the year exceeding the importation of 1893 by 270,000 piculs." With the further opening up of China now about to take place this ever-increasing demand will grow still more rapidly. In view of the possibilities of the China market and the natural advantages the Hongkong refineries possess for competition with the refineries to be established in Japan, the imposition of the higher rate of duty in the latter country which has been agreed upon may be looked upon as little more than a fleabite.

### THE GOVERNMENT AND THE SANITARY BOARD.

The reply of the Government to the representations of the Sanitary Board on the appointment of the Medical Officer of Health will be found in another column. It is weak and shuffling, contains a flagrant *suggestio falsi*, and within its own four corners affords, contrary to the intention of the Government, the fullest possible justification of the action taken by the unofficial members of the Board in resigning their seats. The endowment of the Medical Officer of Health with powers independent of the Board must be read in conjunction with the Governor's declaration of his policy in the Legislative Council on the 28th November last, when His Excellency expressed the opinion that all sanitary arrangements should be placed in the hands of one officer who should be personally responsible to the Government for all matters connected with the health of the colony and for carrying out all sanitary laws and regulations, and that the Sanitary Board was incompetent to control and direct the staff required to carry out and supervise the sanitation of the colony. Accordingly Surgeon-Major Westcott has been appointed Medical Officer of Health with powers entirely independent of the Board and with the obvious intention of ultimately superseding it and rendering it a nullity. As to the relative merits of the one man system and the representative system, so far as sanitation is concerned the former has no merits at all, being in fact entirely incompatible with sanitary progress. Successful sanitation requires that the best available medical knowledge and the best available engineering knowledge should be applied by a body of men who possess conjointly greater familiarity than any one of them individually could possess with the social customs of the people, the drift of public opinion, the practical possibility of enforcing regulations that may seem desirable on abstract grounds, and the financial considerations that enter into the calculation. In no one man will be found all the qualifications requisite for the sanitation of a large town. So fully is this recognised that everywhere throughout the whole empire representative bodies have been created for the purpose, even in Hongkong. Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, however, apparently thinking more of the traditions of an official hierarchy than of the public interest, wants to overturn all

that, and, as he was unsuccessful in his scheme of abolishing the Sanitary Board outright, is trying by indirect means to render its continued existence impossible. A few weeks ago Sir WILLIAM, in consequence of the firmness he displayed in the suppression of the coolie strike, stood on the pinnacle of public favour; to-day his action in another matter not less important is universally condemned and instead of a disinterested and self-denying devotion to the public welfare he is credited with something very different. We are not concerned at present to examine the psychological problem presented by a man who will do such yeoman's service for the colony one day and attempt to kick it over a precipice the next; but we must perforce resist the kicking.

In attempting to justify the position given to Surgeon-Major Westcott the Governor, through the Colonial Secretary, says it is rendered necessary by "the dual control that exists over sanitary matters in this colony." Now, that dual control is precisely the thing that it is desirable to get rid of; the Sanitary Board should be entrusted with the sole control. Surgeon-Major Westcott's appointment is made with the object of perpetuating the dual control and on that ground is to be condemned. Then it is said that on military grounds it is not considered practicable to place Surgeon-Major Westcott in the same position as that held by an Officer of Health in relation to the Board of Health in a district in England. This is the portion of the letter to which we have referred above as containing a *suggestio falsi*. We are informed on excellent authority that Surgeon-Major Westcott himself had no objection whatever to being appointed an officer of the Board and that in fact he expected that his appointment would take that form; and, further, that Surgeon-Colonel PRESTON, the Principal Medical Officer of the Garrison, also saw no objection to Surgeon-Major Westcott's holding such an appointment. But we do not require to have it authoritatively stated that there is no such objection, for it is self-evident that there cannot be. To ask the community to believe that there can be any military objection to Surgeon-Major Westcott taking his instructions from the Sanitary Board and making his reports to that body instead of to the Government is to ask it to believe a palpable absurdity. As to the question of personal dignity, the appointment of Officer of Health in the rural and urban sanitary districts in England is much sought after by men of high standing in the medical profession and is held in high esteem, and cases of collision between the officer and the sanitary authority are so rare as to be practically unknown. It is idle to talk of loyal co-operation between Surgeon-Major Westcott and the Sanitary Board, as mentioned in the last paragraph of the letter, when the appointment is confessedly made with the object of perpetuating the disastrous system of "dual control that exists over sanitary matters" and of administering a slap in the face to the Sanitary Board. The question now is, what is to be done by the community in support of the action taken by their representatives on the Board? We can only repeat our previous suggestion that a memorial should be addressed to the Secretary of State on the subject. There can be no doubt that such a memorial would have the desired result. But it is necessary that some one should take the initiative in promoting the memorial and the resigning members are the men who should do so. Having entered on this fight for the public welfare we trust they will not abandon it until they have carried it to victory.

### THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE SANITARY BOARD ON THE INIQUITIES OF LANDLORDS.

At the meeting of the Sanitary Board on Thursday Mr. F. H. MAY made some very outspoken remarks on the neglect of landlords to comply with sanitary laws, and also made reference to the recent attacks on the Board. Mr. F. H. MAY is nominally the Vice-President of the Board, but for a good many months past has been virtually the President, the Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, the real President, having abstained from exercising the functions of that office since shortly after he took charge of the Colonial Secretary's department. Mr. MAY goes on leave on the 1st May and his speech was in the nature of a valedictory address. In bidding farewell to the Board he said he might probably never see it again. We do not know the precise meaning to be attached to that remark, but if it is that Mr. MAY anticipates a transfer to some other colony it will occasion regret, for he has proved himself a capable and energetic officer, afraid neither of hard work nor of responsibility, and his services in combatting the plague and in bringing the recent strike to an end are worthy of substantial recognition. That he is not a popularity hunter was shown by the tenour of his remarks on Thursday, which might be calculated in some quarters to excite hostility. Having effectively replied to the attack made upon the Board by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, he proceeded to turn the tables on the landlords. Did those gentlemen, he asked, carry out their duty, and he proceeded to answer the question very strongly in the negative. An Ordinance was passed last December aimed at the prevention of the recurrence of plague in the colony, but practically nothing has been done under it, Mr. MAY says, because there has been no assistance or co-operation from the landed class. The landlords have not, with the exception of the Land Investment Co., done anything towards preventing overcrowding, nothing has yet been done towards covering the ground surface of dwellings with impervious material, although the work should be completed before the 1st July next, and although the occupation of basements abutting against the soil has become illegal since the 1st April there are between a hundred and fifty and two hundred of them in occupation at the present time. The landlords, Mr. MAY says, "are drawing their rents from the wretched people who are inhabiting these hovels, which the Board would not license to keep pigs in. The landlords must be fully aware that they are breaking the law in receiving rents from their tenants, but not an effort, not one single step, has been taken to rid these disgusting hovels of their inhabitants." Landlords are also charged with neglecting to comply with the law as regards mezzanine floors and cubicles. This a serious indictment. Mr. MAY intimates that the police, who ought to be otherwise engaged, will shortly be busy going round summoning landlords for breaches of the law. It is to be hoped the landlords, European landlords especially, will not wait for that, but will proceed to set their houses in order, for it would be humiliating to see a number of our best known residents haled to the Police Court to answer for offences against laws of whose provisions they are perfectly well aware. We cannot think, however, that it is sheer obstinacy that deters the landlords from complying with the law. Mr. MAY asks if it is any defence for a murderer to say, "Oh, the police did not come and stop me committing that murder." But an analogy can



hardly be drawn between a murder and failure to comply with new sanitary laws. There is perhaps some doubt as to the extent to which the Government intends to enforce the laws, or the amount of grace that is to be allowed, a doubt perhaps justified to some extent by the confusion consequent on the Government's unreasoning opposition to the Sanitary Board, which is the executive body in the matter but has little power to effectively discharge its duties without the support and co-operation of the Government. The question of sanitation, however, is too serious a one to be trifled with and it is time steps were taken to put the law in force. When the Crown rents become due a notice is issued that after a certain date proceedings will be taken against defaulters. A similar notice might usefully be issued in respect of the various matters touched on in Mr. MAY's speech, stating that after a certain date a prosecution will be instituted against any person offending against the law in the particular points mentioned. After that let prosecutions be instituted where necessary and exemplary fines be imposed, for no one could then plead ignorance of the law or of the Government's determination to enforce it.

### THE TERMS OF PEACE.

(25th April.)

That we are in possession of most of the terms of settlement arrived at between China and Japan may be taken for granted. It is true that the conditions have leaked out by instalments, with not a few contradictions and that they emanate from Chinese, and therefore untrustworthy, sources, but no doubt the salient features of the treaty are, now known, though perhaps imperfectly. Nevertheless it is as well to suspend judgment on the Treaty until the official text or the memorandum is before us. For instance, it is not yet perfectly clear whether the cessions of territory are temporary as guarantee or permanent acquisitions by the Japanese Empire. The alleged offensive and defensive alliance between the parties to the agreement is also another item concerning which we should like some definite information. If the terms are substantially what has been stated then the collapse of China has been indeed complete. The indemnity was probably not much disputed. China had lost the game, and knew that she would have to pay the bill. It may have been larger than she liked, but it could not be very tenaciously contested. But the cession of territory would inevitably be resisted at Peking. It is a principle in Chinese policy never to part with any territory once brought under the Dragon flag, and the Manchu Government have always displayed great reluctance to cede a rood of the sacred soil of the Central Kingdom. They invariably endeavour to make it believed in China that the cession of Hongkong is only a temporary occupation by the British permitted by the Emperor as a favour to the English Government. The tenacity with which they cling to the Kuldja, thereby risking a war with Russia, and the determined opposition offered by them to France in Tonkin, is still further evidence of the reluctance with which they give up any ground once acquired. But they are not now in a position to stand out against the demands of Japan, and they are feverishly anxious to stop the march of the victorious Japanese legions into the capital.

Though the Treaty signed by LI HUNG-CHANG has been duly ratified there are some rocks ahead which may lead to a prolongation and widening of the area of conflict in Asia. A telegram in a Shanghai con-

temporary states that the British Government has accepted the terms of the treaty of peace, provided that the fortifications of Makung, in the Pescadores, be razed. But though Great Britain seems content to give Japan a free hand, the other European Powers are not, if Reuter is well informed, inclined to be equally complaisant. Russia, France, and Germany are reported to have combined to protect their interests in the Far East, and Russia at any rate has collected a most formidable fleet in these waters. The Russian Press, which is under strict consorship, has declared that Russia cannot agree to the acquisition by Japan of any territory on the mainland; and if the French Press are to be accepted as any guide to the policy of the French Government, France will strongly oppose the cession of Formosa to Japan. The Japanese Government, on their part, betray no sign of wavering, and show no symptom of an intention to invite a conference on the subject. Seeing that Russia is looking forward to a development of Siberia; and having regard to the fact that she has recently reinforced the garrisons in the Amoor provinces, it is not improbable that a fresh storm is even now brewing in the North. The Russian Government have not despatched the big fleet of formidable vessels all the way to Eastern Asia merely for a naval promenade. They mean business in some direction, and mean to profit by the present crisis. Where the carcass is there will the eagles be gathered together. The prostrate empire of China lies at the mercy of her victor; and to the victor belongs the spoils, Japan is no doubt prepared to urge, but the great Bear will not acquiesce in that dogma unless he secures a share of the honey. Great are the resources of diplomacy, however, and it is quite possible that the conflicting interests may yet be reconciled without a new rupture, but at the moment the prospects look rather threatening. There is a general impression that we are on the verge of further and important developments, and it is at the moment impossible to predicate the course of events.

### DOCKING ACCOMMODATION AT HONGKONG.

In an article devoted to a review of the attitude of the Foreign Powers in the present crisis in the Far East brought about by the treaty of peace between China and Japan our Shanghai morning contemporary has the following extraordinary passage:—"But she [England] has nothing at present to gain by going to war with anybody, and until we have some adequate dock accommodation at Hongkong we should most certainly advocate a neutral policy." Passing over the first statement, we should like to know what is meant by the latter, namely, the inadequate dock accommodation at Hongkong. The only possible explanation is that the writer is an utter stranger to this Colony, has never even taken the trouble to read anything about it, and has simply echoed the ignorance of home journals on the subject, who seem to imagine that Hongkong, in regard to dock accommodation, is on a par with Gibraltar. And so probably it would have been had not mercantile enterprise provided docking facilities here hardly surpassed in any port in the world. The Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company—it is a pity the latter title was not eliminated when the mud docks at Whampoa were sold to the Canton Government, as it serves to mislead silly people at a distance—have three large establishments where the docking and repair of any fleet might be quickly and thoroughly effected, and a flotilla of small cruisers or torpedo boats built at short notice. It ought not to be necessary,

but as it is evident that ignorance on this matter is widespread, we will mention in detail what the docking facilities at this port really are. The Dock Company before mentioned have two establishments on the Kowloon peninsula and one at Aberdeen, on the south side of the island. That at Hungnam has three docks, viz., the Admiralty dock, which is 500 feet in length, 80 feet in breadth at entrance at top and 70 feet at bottom, with a depth of 29 feet; the No. 1 dock, 340 feet in length, 74 feet in breadth, and 18 feet in depth; the No. 2 dock 245 feet in length, 49 feet breadth at entrance, and 13 feet in depth. There are also two patent slips, one 250 feet in length 60 feet in breadth, and the other 230 feet in length by 60 feet in breadth. At Tai-kok-sui, there is the Cosmopolitan dock, which is 465 feet in length by 85 feet in breadth, with a depth of 20 feet, and which can readily accommodate two gunboats at a time. At Aberdeen there are two fine docks, the dimensions of which are as follow:—Hope dock: length over all, 433 feet; breadth at entrance 84 feet; depth, 24 feet. Lamont dock: length over all, 340 feet; breadth 64 feet; depth, 16 feet. There are in addition the Royal Naval Yard, where repairs can be effected, and several private establishments which both construct and repair small vessels up to one hundred tons. It will be seen therefore that Hongkong possesses six docks and two patent slips, an amount of docking accommodation not to be found in any other port in Asia. The Admiralty Dock is capable of holding the largest ironclad ever sent out to these waters, and the work can be executed with a completeness and despatch only to be surpassed by the best English dockyards. It is quite time the strange hallucinations which prevail as to the docking capacities of this colony, and which it seems are even shared by some persons in the Far East, should be finally dispelled. What Hongkong requires is, not docks for the accommodation of Her Majesty's fleet, but more of those same vessels docked in these extensive establishments, for it is an item of just complaint against the Admiralty that, after the Dock Company has constructed a huge dock for the special benefit of British ironclads with money loaned to the Company by the British Government, and which work has never proved remunerative, most of the vessels of the Squadron are docked at Nagasaki. It has been decided, we learn by recent advices, to extend the accommodation at the Royal Naval Yard by the reclamation of some six acres from the foreshore, but there was never any intention of constructing a dock, for the very good reason, presumably, that such accommodation was amply provided by the Hongkong Dock Company. Meantime, pending the enlargement of the Naval Yard, there need be nothing lacking for the repair and docking of Her Majesty's ships, and if the whole of the Mediterranean Fleet were to be despatched out to augment the naval force in these waters there would be no difficulty in providing for them. So far therefore as Hongkong's resources in this line are concerned there is no obligation on Her Majesty's Government to adopt a neutral policy.

### THE BANK OF CHINA, JAPAN, AND THE STRAITS AND ITS CALLS.

The judgment of the Court of Appeal at Saigon in the case of the Bank of China, Japan, and the Straits, Limited, v. E. L. LEPRISSE, which was reproduced in our columns a few days ago, is one of some importance, both from a general point of view and as specially affecting the position of the Bank and its shareholders. It may be use-



ful to briefly recall the facts of the case. M. LEPISSIER was a shareholder in the Bank, but sold his shares. The shares, however, were not transferred, and remained in his name. Subsequently calls were made and M. LEPISSIER's name being still on the register the Bank asked him to pay the said calls. M. LEPISSIER resisted and a suit was brought against him in the French Consular Court at Shanghai. The case was duly tried and the Court gave a most remarkable judgment, one which, had it been upheld, would have absolved French shareholders in public companies registered under English law from all liability towards such companies. What the court said was in effect that unless an English company had complied with all the minutiae of French company law—which of course no English company possibly could do—it could not recover calls from French shareholders. The Court of Appeal at Saigon overrules that and decides that a company regularly constituted according to English law has the right, under the convention of the 30th April, 1862, to ask French Courts to order the execution of agreements entered into between it and third parties. English companies may therefore with safety allow the names of Frenchmen to appear on their register of shareholders, which they could not have done had the judgment of the Shanghai Consular Court been upheld. That judgment was commented upon in these columns at the time it was given and was shown to be opposed alike to common sense and equity and to the terms of the Anglo-French Convention of 1862 entered into for the express purpose of establishing the rights and liability of Frenchmen and Englishmen respectively in regard to companies registered in accordance with English or French law.

The Saigon Court not only finds that French shareholders in English companies are liable to pay calls properly made, but also that in this case the calls were properly made. On this point the judgment is of interest to shareholders in the Bank, whether English or foreign, who have it in contemplation to resist payment of calls, on which subject some correspondence has recently appeared in our columns. Two other cases have been tried in Consular Courts at Shanghai, one in the United States Court and the other in the Danish Court. In the latter judgment was given in favour of the Bank, but in the former the Court held that the defendant could not be compelled to pay the calls sued for, the judgment being based chiefly on the ground that the directors had entered into business which was not authorised by the articles of association. That judgment has been appealed against, but the appeal has not yet been decided. The judgment of the U.S. Consular Court was cited before the Court of Appeal at Saigon, but the Court did not adopt the view of the American Judge. The bad management of the finances of the Bank, the violation of the articles of association, and the loss of a part of the capital, even if established, would not, the Court said, relieve shareholders of their liability to pay the calls made, but could only serve as the basis of a demand for the dissolution of the company. This is common sense and good law. Shareholders who think dissolution advisable may take what steps they may be advised to bring it about, but there can be no doubt that the courts of law to which the shareholders may be respectively subject, whether English or foreign, will hold that the shareholders are liable, to the extent of the uncalled capital, to meet the obligations incurred by the Bank, and that any judgments to a contrary effect given by the inferior courts

will be reversed on appeal. The case may be a very hard one for the shareholders, especially for the shareholders in the Far East, who have not been consulted as to the management, but it would be a still harder case for the depositors if they found that they were unable to recover even to the extent of the uncalled capital of the Bank.

### THE PLAGUE.

#### THE PLAGUE AT MACAO.

25th April.  
There were no Chinese passengers on the Macao boat when she arrived at Hongkong on yesterday morning. An unusually large number of coolies assembled on the wharf at Macao waiting to board the *Heungshang* in the early morning, but the proclamation of the Governor had been made known to the Steamboat Company on the previous evening and, of course, the Chinese were not permitted to board the boat. All the junks and other craft coming from Macao are now being carefully watched by the authorities, and they are thoroughly overhauled in the quarantine anchorage before they are allowed to discharge cargo. The Canton boats are running as usual, no medical examination of them being made. It is thought, however, that this precaution will be shortly taken. *A propos* of the plague it is gratifying that the rain has at last made its appearance. The long, steady downpour of yesterday has not only replenished the reservoirs, but has given the drains a wholesome cleansing. Last year the rain did not come until the plague was thick upon us, and it was then thought that the prolonged drought had not a little to do with the rapid spread of the disease. It was the 16th May last year before rain fell in any considerable volume, the total for April being only 2.48 inches as against an average of 7.53 inches.

A gentleman, not a Government official, who arrived from Macao on yesterday, expresses his very firm belief that the number of cases of plague which have occurred at that port in no way justify the statement that it is epidemic there. He says that there have been a considerable number of cases and some deaths from diarrhoea, caused, it is believed, through the wells from which the poorer classes of Chinese obtain their cooking water having become foul owing to want of rain. He thinks that the officers from Hongkong have mistaken these for deaths from plague; but admits that there have been one or two isolated cases of true bubonic plague. The authorities, he informs us, are taking preventive precautions and yesterday commenced flushing the drains with strong disinfectants.

27th April.  
Mr. Romano, the Consul-General for Portugal, late on yesterday afternoon received a telegram from the Colonial Secretary of Macao requesting him to protest to the authorities of this colony against the information given by Inspector Quincey that there had died in the Rua Felicidade thirty persons on one day and seven on another; it being certain that since the beginning of this month there have only died three persons in that street, one an old woman who had been a long time sick and two children. The Consul-General is accordingly requested to publicly contradict Inspector Quincey's statements.

#### PLAGUE NEAR KOWLOON CITY.

29th April.  
The plague has made its appearance at Sha Po Tsai, which is about a quarter of a mile north-east of Kowloon City. During the last six days there have been six deaths, but, as far as has been ascertained, the disease is not very rife, as there are now, it is believed, only three patients suffering from the plague.

#### PLAGUE IN HONGKONG.

29th April.  
We regret to learn that the plague has made its appearance in the colony, three cases having occurred. The patients have been removed to the plague hospital. As they came from boarding houses it would seem the disease has been introduced from outside the colony, and with the prompt isolation of the cases it is to be hoped its spread may be prevented.

The hull, standing and running rigging, engines, boilers, and stores of the *Nora* have been sold at auction at Shanghai for £1,100 and the cargo for £1,900.

## CHINA AND JAPAN AND FOREIGN INTERVENTION.

### [REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.]

LONDON, 23rd April.

The Treaty has been ratified. The Mikado has issued a Proclamation highly approving of the terms of the agreement, declaring his ardent desire for peace, and stating that his object is national prosperity. Hopes the Japanese will avoid self-contentedness and modestly strive to perfect their defences. Enjoins friendly relations with China. The Japanese Government declares that the commercial concessions obtained from China will extend to all other Powers in virtue of the favoured nation clause.

LONDON, 24th April.

The *Times* considers the Government have acted wisely in refusing to join the other Powers in putting pressure on Japan, and that the proposed naval demonstration is not only unprecedented, but impolitic.

The conditions of peace do not directly menace British interests.

LONDON, 25th April.

The French, German, and Russian Ministers at Tokyo have officially remonstrated against any cession of territory on the mainland of China.

LONDON, 26th April.

Japan replies to the remonstrances of Germany, Russia, and France that should the Government yield to the protests of these Powers regarding the cession of territory on the Chinese mainland, they would risk an uprising of the people, who, drunk with the successes of the Japanese arms, would brook no concession or curtailment of the fruits of victory. The British Press approves of Great Britain not joining the combination, and believes that Russia is making catspaws of Germany and France.

LONDON, 27th April.

Germany, Russia, and France declare that their protest is a friendly one and maintain that the cession of the Liaotung peninsula to Japan would be a constant menace to Peking and to the autonomy of Korea.

Shanghai reports that the situation in Peking is critical and that some Generals are in favour of a continuation of the war. The ratification of the Treaty appears to be uncertain.

## THE IMPERIAL JAPANESE PROCLAMATION.

Tokyo, 23rd April.

An Imperial proclamation has been issued in which the Emperor declares that he is convinced that through peace the national prosperity will be promoted, and since his accession to the throne it has been His Majesty's desire to preserve peace that may be of lasting advantage to the country. His Majesty repeats his former regrets at the rupture of friendly relations with China, and says that his Ministers, acting in concert with the Army and Navy and both Houses of the Diet, have done all in their power to further imperial objects, and nothing was left undone at home to elaborate plans of action, supply money, and perfect national defences; whilst abroad, unmindful of the bitter winter cold or blazing summer heat, the expeditionary forces, triumphing over every difficulty and enduring hardships, bore their standard everywhere victoriously, and earned a reputation for discipline and humanity. His Majesty praises their earnest loyalty and valour, and expresses his high pleasure that negotiations have terminated and that the armistice has been prolonged to permanent cessation of hostilities. His Majesty is certain that China has shown sincerity in repenting of breach of faith, and while addition has already been made to the glory of the Empire, yet much remains to be done during the march onward to increased civilisation. His Majesty hopes that his loyal subjects will guard against a conceited spirit, but with modesty and humility strive to perfect military defences without going to extremes, and promote education and refinement without engendering effeminacy. His Majesty severely rebukes beforehand all attempts, through conceit on account of recent victories, to injure relations with or insult friendly Powers, especially China. After the exchange of ratifications friendship should be restored and endeavours made for increased harmony. His Majesty requires his subjects to respect his wishes.—*N. C. Daily News.*



## HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Thursday afternoon, Mr. F. H. May, Vice-President, presiding. There were also present Hon. F. A. Cooper, Director of Public Works, Dr. Atkinson, Acting Colonial Surgeon, Surgeon-Major Westcott, Acting Medical Officer, and Mr. H. McCallum, Secretary. The unofficial members—Dr. Hartigan, Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., Mr. R. K. Leigh, and Dr. Ho Kai did not attend the meeting. Dr. Hartigan and Dr. Ho Kai came into the room before the proceedings commenced, and after a private consultation with the Vice-President retired, as an answer to the resolution sent to the Government on Monday has not yet been received.

## THE RESIGNATIONS "NOTED."

Letters were read from the Colonial Secretary stating that the resignation of Mr. Francis and Mr. Leigh had been noted.

## THE GOVERNMENT AND THE BOARD.

The following letter was read from the Colonial Secretary:—"25th April.—With reference to the report of the proceedings at the recent meeting of the Sanitary Board, I am directed by the Governor to request the Board to be good enough to furnish me, for his Excellency's information, with the list of its recommendations during the past year—(A) for additional powers, (B) for increase of staff, and to state how they have been dealt with by the Government. I am also to state for the information of the Board that his Excellency is advised that under the laws at present in force the Board has ample powers to deal effectively with the sanitation of the colony and with epidemics. I shall be obliged if you will lay this letter before the Board at the meeting announced for this afternoon."

The VICE-PRESIDENT—The reply to this letter is really very simple. What was referred to by Mr. Francis was not the powers of the Board now, but the powers it had during the time that the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce complained that the Board had neglected its duty. I think we might give the information asked for and point out that the remarks did not have reference to the present time.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS moved that the letter be answered and that the information asked for be given within a reasonable time. The reply would involve a lot of labour.

## The resolution was carried

## PLAGUE AT MACAO.

The SECRETARY read a communication from the Colonial Secretary containing the following letter which had been received from Her Majesty's Consul at Swatow:—

My dear Lockhart,—I am sorry to say that I think it is incumbent on me to let the Hongkong Government know, for the present privately, that the Medical Officer has reported that cases of plague have occurred sporadically in Swatow since 15th March. He assures me positively that there are at present no signs of its being epidemic. Two cases were reported to me yesterday as having occurred in the same Chinese hong—one on Monday, 5th inst., and the other on Saturday, 20th inst., both terminating fatally. My information on the subject may be relied on. Mr. Layng, the Medical Officer, is closely in touch with the Chinese Missionary Hospital here, at which very large numbers of Chinese are treated. I cannot fail, if plague assumes anything approaching an epidemic form or even if these sporadic cases increase, to let you have early and accurate information. As yet it is quite certain that the disease is sporadic merely, not epidemic, but it is present in Swatow, and it is of course impossible to say what may occur.—I am, &c., B. C. George Scott."

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I move that a strict medical examination be made of all persons arriving from Swatow and Canton.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—I second that.

Carried.

## THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY wrote stating that the Sanitary Board had power to fill up vacancies that might occur on the Permanent Committee.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said that as far as he could see two of the officers who served in the past would not have the pleasure of serving on the Permanent Committee again. He did not know

whether there was anyone present who would like to make up the trio.

The ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER said he was not quite sure whether he would have time to serve, and he therefore asked for time to consider the matter. He was willing to give all the time he could, but he had to perform his professional duties as well.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said the amount of work depended entirely upon the extent of the epidemic. Last year for five months three men were occupied every day, from early in the morning until seven o'clock at night.

The ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER—I might serve, I think—

The VICE-PRESIDENT—Perhaps you will serve until the epidemic became serious?

The ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER—Yes.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS said he was not at all satisfied with the appointment of a Permanent Committee, as it did not meet the requirements. The Board had now a great deal of work to do in the sanitation of this colony, and it was most desirable that the work should be to some extent divided amongst the members of the Board and that the Board should be empowered to appoint not one Committee only but Committees, as might be considered necessary, to carry out its functions. He moved "That the Board be empowered to appoint select Committees to represent itself and exercise all powers and authorities when necessary or advisable." That resolution could be forwarded to the Government, as he considered that the present condition of the sanitation of the colony called for the appointment of the Committees.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—In the meantime the Permanent Committee consists of Francis Henry May.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—You could not have a better man.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said at the present time he could not spare time to serve. Some one was wanted to do the work, as there was a lot to be done. The Committee ought to be appointed now. Let the Government be asked to appoint select Committees by all means.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS said the only reason for continuing the Permanent Committee was that if we were unfortunate enough to have the plague in the colony it would be wise to have the same persons undertaking the duties again; but as two of the members had gone away on leave, and another was about to go away, he did not think there was any necessity for continuing the Permanent Committee.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—You must have somebody immediately responsible, and to take action at a moment's notice. You may have a case tomorrow, and who is going to look after it? There are fifty things to be done almost at once.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—The President and the Vice-President are responsible between the meetings of the Board. I am quite sure that the Vice-President will receive all the support that can possibly be given to him by the official members of this Board.

The VICE-PRESIDENT asked whether it was desired that the vacancies should not be filled. He was quite willing to second Mr. Cooper's resolution, which was a very good one.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS said he did not think that the appointments on the Permanent Committee should be made. He was quite willing to render assistance to the Board or to any one else in the colony during the plague.

The resolution was thereupon put to the meeting and carried.

## THE APPOINTMENT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

A letter was read from the Colonial Secretary concerning the appointment of Surgeon-Major S. Westcott, A.M.S., as Acting Health Officer and member of the Sanitary Board, and forwarding the duties of the Health Officer.

The following minute was attached:—

Dr. Hartigan.—Most of the clauses of the instructions of the Local Government Board from which these are adapted, which would have made the Health Officer of practical utility to the Sanitary Board, have been either altered or entirely omitted. Why?

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS said that he was quite sure that any gentleman appointed on this Board as Health Officer would always be willing, not only to advise the Board, but also to give the Board any assistance in his power. It was most important that the officers of the Board should render him every assistance and information. He therefore moved that the

officers of the Sanitary Board be instructed to give every assistance and furnish such information as lay in their power to the Medical Officer of Health.

The ACTING COLONIAL SURGEON seconded.

Carried.

## THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S SCHEME.

The following letter was read:—

To the President, Sanitary Board.

23rd April, 1895.

Sir,—Having been requested to submit a general scheme for the performance of my duties by the Honourable the Colonial Secretary, I have the honour to forward the following brief outline for the information of the Board. I propose, firstly, to make myself acquainted with the existing arrangements for the sanitation of the colony, the housing, water supply, disposal of refuse, sewerage, &c., by tracing the channel of supervision and execution from the Superior Sanitary Authority to the lowest detail in each district, which I might represent in tabular form.

Superior Authority.  
(Sanitary Board.)

No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.	No. 4.
District Inspector.	District Inspector.	&c.	&c.
Watchmen.	Ditto.	Ditto.	
Scavenging coolies supplied by contractors.			
Number of houses.			
Number of inhabitants.			
Housing.			
Water supply—wells, &c.			

A report on the existing conditions and requirements of each district will be submitted for the information of the Board.

Reports and recommendations on mortality, epidemics, public buildings, &c., will also be furnished.

Willing assistance will be offered in dealing with any matter which the Sanitary Board may bring forward in connection with the sanitation of the colony.

—I have the honour to be, &c.,

S. WESTCOTT,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

## SHEEP AND SWINE DEPOTS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY wrote stating that the alterations, improvements, and additions suggested to the sheep and swine depots will be duly executed.

## THE NEW CENTRAL MARKET.

A letter was read from the Colonial Secretary stating that the new Central Market was expected to be ready for occupation on the 1st prox.

## THE PLAGUE NEAR CANTON.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY wrote that Her Majesty's Consul at Canton reported that the plague had appeared at Chan Tsun, about twelve miles to the south of Canton.

## MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The death rate for the week ended 6th April was 18.8, as compared with 21.3 in the corresponding week of last year, and for the week ended 13th April 18.5 per 1,000 per annum as compared with 23.3 in the corresponding week of last year.

## THE DRAINAGE AT SHAIKIWAN.

The Acting Medical Officer of Health wrote:—To the President, Sanitary Board.

23rd April, 1895.

Sir,—I have the honour to report that the drainage of Shaukiwan requires attention, as there is a soakage of soil—the nullah from the upper of the two wells is terraced with a series of quagmires, and the drains from many of the houses are worn out and require re-cementing.—I have the honour to be, &c.,

S. WESTCOTT,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

## LANDLORDS STRONGLY CONDEMNED.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—Gentlemen, I am about to take leave of this colony to go home on leave. Before I bid farewell to the Board, which I may probably never see again, I wish to make one or two remarks about sanitary matters in this colony. Recently an august body, called the Chamber of Commerce, through its Chairman, made an attack upon this Board, which I shall be neglecting my duty if I do not in some sense answer. The principal charges which were made against this Board in a letter were—that this Board, although it made by-laws, in the year 1891, against overcrowding of common lodging houses, did not enforce those by-laws; that its supervision of the maintenance and cleanliness inside houses in this colony was so bad that the plague was enabled last year to claim a deep-rooted hold upon this colony, and to wreck the prosperity of the colony during several months. Now, gentlemen, as regards the first charge, I fear it has been made in considerable ignorance—an ignorance which is more surprising when you consider that only recently, 15th August last, when I moved the enforcement of the by-laws which are now rigidly put in force, I gave a history of the



various attempts which had been made for the enforcement of those by-laws since 1865, and I showed that, during the space of about 25 years, no less than five attempts have been made by Government to enforce those by-laws, and without success. I ask you, gentlemen, was it surprising that this Board should hesitate before endeavouring to enforce by-laws which, it was almost certain, the Government would not be able to put through. It was only recently, gentlemen, that I myself, knowing that we had at the present time a Governor in this colony who has shown that he would stand no nonsense from the native population—I say, knowing that full well, I got the consent of the Board to put these by-laws in force. I say, gentlemen, that the blame for the delay in putting these by-laws in force cannot be laid upon this Board. Then we go on to the sanitary maintenance of the dwellings in this city, and the maintenance of the sanitary condition generally. I say, gentlemen, that this Board may have had its shortcomings. It certainly was underhanded; it had not sufficient powers, because it had not the right of entry into every dwelling, and its officers could not inform themselves of the condition of the interior of these dwellings. But, gentlemen, do the landlords and the landed class in this colony carry out their duty? Is it any defence on the part of a murderer to say, "Oh, the police did not come and stop me committing that murder"? I say, no; and I say, gentlemen, that, leaving the past alone, we have ample proof, from the experiences of the last three or four months, that, however loud the execrations of a certain class in this colony may be against the Sanitary Board for having contributed to the plague of last year, and however loud they may clamour over the action of this Board and say that the plague will visit us again, they themselves, gentlemen, while they complain and while they clamour, they move neither hand nor foot to assist this Government or this Board in carrying out the sanitary laws of this colony, or in looking after their own property, and doing all they can to co-operate with us. It was principally on the recommendation of this Board that a most important Ordinance was passed on 29th December, 1894, the Ordinance 15 of 1894, and its provisions aimed at the prevention of the recurrence of plague in this colony. Gentlemen, the plague is at our door, and I ask you, what has been done under this Ordinance to keep it out? I say, gentlemen, that practically nothing has been done, and why? Not because the officers of the Board have not been working, but because the task is such an enormous one that they have so far been able to make very little impression. And why? Because there has been no assistance or co-operation from the landed class in this colony, with only one or two exceptions. We have heard about these common lodging house by-laws, and I may tell you that I have had to detail two special officers to go about the city summoning people for keeping unregistered houses. I have done that because I did not wish to take the Sanitary Inspectors away from their own duties. These police officers, who are paid to look after ratepayers' lives and property, are detailed for summoning lodging house keepers for keeping open unregistered houses, and I know of only one landlord—and I think I can publicly mention his name because it reflects great credit upon him—who has assisted us much in getting tenants to register for themselves—the Land Investment Company, under the enlightened management of Mr. Chater, and his secretary, Mr. Shelton Hooper. The Company has turned out people who have not registered, and I do not know another landlord who has taken similar action, although it might have greatly facilitated the action of this Board in getting the houses registered and so stopping overcrowding. Then, gentlemen, passing from overcrowding, we have a very important provision which says that "from and after 1st July, 1895, the ground surface of such building and of every cookhouse, latrine, or open surface connected therewith, such as backyards, court yards or other spaces on which slops may be thrown or from which foul waters flow, shall be properly covered over with a layer of some impervious material to the satisfaction of the Sanitary Board." Gentlemen, the by-laws which have been made setting forth what materials would be to our satisfaction have been in force many weeks now, and I say here publicly that no steps have been taken by

any landlord to conform with those by-laws. I suppose that in due course the police will have to be called upon to supply officers to go round and summon the recalcitrant landlords, and enforce the by-laws by penalties in the Police Court—to put the provisions of this Ordinance in force, which was specially aimed at keeping the plague out of the colony. You go a little further down the Ordinance and find that "on and after 1st April, 1895, it shall not be lawful, without the written consent of the Sanitary Board, to live in, occupy, or use, or to let or sublet, or to suffer or permit to be used for habitation or for occupation as a shop, any cellar, vault, underground room, basement, or room any side of which abuts on or against the earth or soil." That clause, gentlemen, was put in at the urgent request of the Permanent Committee of the Sanitary Board during or after the plague of last year, because these dwellings are utterly uninhabitable. The Permanent Committee cleared every one of the basements of this description in the western police district and all those in the eastern police district. The Committee did not clear those in the central police district because there were no premises into which to turn the people. I have had a report made, and I find that between 150 and 200 basements of this description are being illegally occupied at the present time, although the landlords are drawing their rents from the wretched people who are inhabiting these hovels, which this Board would not license to keep pigs in. The landlords must be fully aware that they are breaking the law in receiving rents from their tenants. Not an effort, not one single step has been taken to rid these disgusting hovels of their inhabitants. Again, I suppose that either the Sanitary Inspectors of this Board will have to neglect their other duties and spend their mornings in the Police Court summoning the landlords for a breach of this Ordinance, or the Sanitary Inspectors not having time, the police, who are paid by the taxpayers in this colony for other purposes, will be withdrawn from their legitimate duties, and turned into Sanitary Inspectors to carry out the provision which has been enacted at the urgent request of the Permanent Committee of the Sanitary Board. Then as regarding the maintenance of mezzanine floors and cubicles in one and the same room. These, thank God, are now illegal. The multiplication of mezzanine floors and cubicles in Chinese houses in this colony was one of the greatest predisposing causes of the plague, and prevented all light and ventilation penetrating into the rooms. I can assure you that although it has been illegal since 1st January for a cubicle and mezzanine to co-exist in the same room, no effort has been made on the part of the owners of any of the houses in this colony to enforce that law. I think, gentlemen, I have mentioned the principal points that I care at this late hour to touch upon. You all know, of course, and every one knows, that process by proceedings in the Police Court to carry out the various provisions of the sanitary laws is, where you have to deal with a population of nearly 250,000, simply an interminable business. If no effort is to be made on the part of the landed classes to co-operate with us and to assist us in getting this colony into a decent sanitary condition, I say, gentlemen, that, with the present staff of inspectors, it will take five or six years to carry out that law. If you had a hundred inspectors to-morrow you would make very slow progress even in a year. Gentlemen, I earnestly appeal to the landed classes in this colony to just think for one moment and to reflect that without their co-operation and assistance really no speedy progress can be made in ameliorating sanitary matters in this colony. It is no use blackguarding the Government, and then the Sanitary Board. It appears to be the Sanitary Board just now, but during the last fourteen years it has been the Government who has been blamed. However, the Government is in favour now, and the Sanitary Board is not. That does not matter to us. What we want to do is to get Ordinance 15 of 1894 enforced up to the hilt, and I only regret that I am going away and I will not be here to render my slight assistance in doing so.

ALJOURNMENT.

The Board then adjourned.

H.E. Mr. L. P. Beaufort, the newly appointed Governor of British North Borneo, and Mrs. Beaufort arrived at Singapore on the 19th inst. from Liverpool in the steamer *Ulysses*.

## THE GOVERNMENT AND THE SANITARY BOARD.

### RESIGNATION OF THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS.

A reply has been received from the Government to the letter of the Sanitary Board with reference to the appointment of the Medical Officer of Health. The resolution passed by the Board was as follows:—

"That a letter be addressed to the Colonial Secretary asking that His Excellency the Governor be pleased to make an order directing that the Medical Officer of Health shall not only advise the Board but assist the Board in the carrying out of its various executive duties and at all times place his services at the disposal of the Board, so that by resolutions the Board can delegate to him part or any of its powers, duties, or functions; and further that the Government be requested to place the Medical Officer of Health in the same position, as far as practicable, in relation to this Board as a Health Officer is to a Sanitary Authority of his district at home."

The Government's reply is as follows:—

"Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Hongkong, 26th April, 1895.

"Sir,—I have the honour by direction of the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd inst. transmitting a copy of a resolution agreed to at a special meeting of the Board held on the 22nd inst.

"In reply I am to state that His Excellency has no objection to the resolution, as it practically embodies what was the intention of the Governor in making the appointment.

"His Excellency in appointing a Medical Officer of Health intended that that officer should assist the Board as far as practicable. In view, however, of the dual control that exists over sanitary matters in this colony, as well as on military grounds, it is not considered practicable to place the present Medical Officer of Health in exactly the same position as that held by such an officer in relation to the Board of Health in a district in England.

"In conclusion, I am to state that His Excellency anticipates that any officer holding the appointment of Medical Officer of Health will at all times loyally co-operate with the Board, as indeed Surgeon-Major Westcott is already doing, in endeavouring to bring about the much-needed improvement in the sanitation of this colony.

"I have, &c.,

"J. H. STEWART-LOCKHART,  
Colonial Secretary.

"The Secretary, Sanitary Board."

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., and Mr. R. K. Leigh, the elected representatives of the ratepayers, have resigned, and Dr. Hartigan and the Hon. Ho Kai, the unofficial members nominated by the Governor, have also sent in their resignations, on the ground that the present position and power of the Medical Officer of Health are inconsistent with the constitution and dignity of the Board.

The following address has been issued by Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., and Mr. R. K. Leigh to the ratepayers:—

To the Ratepayers of Hongkong.

Gentlemen,—On the 16th June last, at a meeting held at the City Hall, we, the undersigned, were chosen by you to be your representatives on the Sanitary Board. At the meeting we both addressed you and both of us called your attention to the defects in the constitution of the Board; to the lamentable division of sanitary duties and responsibilities between the Public Works Department, the Water Authority, and the Board; to the want of power in the Board to perform efficiently even the work entrusted to it, for want of a sufficient staff and for want of effective authority and control over the members of that staff. We pointed out that there was no Medical Officer of Health and that our Sanitary Surveyor was a subordinate officer of a department of the Government and not under our control. We both concurred in the opinion that if the Sanitary Board was to be held responsible for the sanitation of the colony its powers and authorities would have to be very considerably enlarged and extended so as to embrace the management of the public sewers and of the supply and distribution of the water, and that it must be provided with an efficient sanitary staff, including a Medical Officer of Health, wholly under its orders. We pointed out, in conclusion, that unless the



Government could make up its mind to reorganise the Board on this broader basis, it would be better that the Sanitary Board should be abolished, and that all power and authority in sanitary matters should be concentrated in one officer or department of the Government, and we appealed to you to support us in the efforts we then pledged ourselves to make to obtain for the Board that extended jurisdiction and that plenary authority over its own officers without which we all felt it was useless for the Board to attempt to carry on its work. We address you to-day to report to you that we cannot any longer continue members of the Board and that we resign our seats into your hands. All efforts to obtain for the Board any extension of its powers and authorities in the required directions have been ineffectual. The Government has shown itself, more than ever, determined to retain in the hands of its own officers the entire control of the sewers and main drains and of the water. It never even condescends to consult the Sanitary Board on any point connected with the supply or distribution of water, and, after years of continued application, the Board has not yet succeeded in getting a complete plan of the new public sewers for its information and guidance in the performance of its own special duties. Any complaint on the subject of the main drainage is either ignored or resented. Last year repeated attention was called at Board meetings to the blocking up of old sewers in the progress of the Reclamation works, to the necessity of providing temporary outlets for the sewers, old and new, and of carrying them out beyond the line of the new sea wall, but nothing has been done, although bitter complaints were coming daily before the Board as to the insanitary nuisances resulting from the neglect of the Board's warnings.

The Sanitary Surveyor, in spite of repeated representations, is still a subordinate in the Public Works department, depending for pay and promotion on his official superior in that department and on the Government, and to this subordinate officer is entrusted the entire control of the water supply—as Water Authority—instead of to the Board, only a very small portion of his time being available for the work of the Sanitary Board. A Medical Officer of Health has recently been appointed but he has been appointed as an officer of the Government, not under the authority of the Board, and, apparently, with powers and duties which constitute him an independent sanitary authority. Before this appointment was made the Government consulted the Sanitary Board on the subject, all the papers were circulated to members, and the matter was discussed at a full meeting of the Board. The recommendations addressed to the Government were, that a Medical Officer of Health was very much required, that he should not have a seat on the Board, that he should be directed to report himself on appointment to the Board and to act under its orders. A medical committee assembled by the Government to advise as to the medical department generally was asked its opinion as to this appointment and recommended that the Medical Officer of Health should be placed under the Sanitary Board, as in London. The recommendations of the Board and of the committee were alike disregarded and an Ordinance authorising the appointment of the Health Officer to the Board as an official member thereof was forced through the Council at one sitting, without bringing to the notice of members the recommendations of the Sanitary Board, or allowing them time to read, much less study, the report of the medical committee. A resolution of the Sanitary Board protesting against this appointment in this form was addressed to the Government, but without result. The Government justified the appointment of the new independent sanitary authority by a reference to the dual control theretofore existing in sanitary matters. Instead of endeavouring to simplify and concentrate the sanitary administration it seeks, apparently, to further divide, that it may more effectually govern.

We are sorry to say that, since the cessation of the visitation of the plague last year, the Government has shown a steadily increasing hostility to the Sanitary Board, and a settled determination to consult anybody and every body on matters of sanitation rather than the Sanitary Board, to reduce it if possible to the

position of a Government department, taking its orders from the Colonial Secretary, and to eliminate the popular element so far as possible. Two unofficial seats have been left unfilled for months without just cause. On the first news of the outbreak of plague in Hoihow this year, the Board met twice to discuss the matter and unanimously recommended the Government, *the Board having no power*, to stop all immigration of Chinese from Hoihow. The Government refused to act on that recommendation, after referring it to the Colonial Surgeon and Dr. Lowson, who ridiculed the idea and strongly recommended as a more useful measure prompt isolation of all persons reasonably suspected of being infected with plague and the instant preparation of places for carrying out this isolation. The permanent Committee of the Sanitary Board took instant steps to carry out this recommendation, inspected and selected suitable buildings for the purpose, arranged terms with the owners, and worked out plans for fitting them up, isolating, and protecting them, and applied to the Government for authority to proceed and incur the necessary expenses, as the plague might appear in the colony any day, and the matter had been put before them as most urgent—the Board, *be it noted, having unfortunately no power to do what was requisite and proper of its own authority*. A curt letter from the Government was the only reply. The Government had its own ideas and its own plans and when they were completed would let the Sanitary Board know. The Board was to have the responsibility of carrying out plans about which it was not even consulted.

Shortly after, the Sanitary Board received a letter stating that Captain Hastings, R.N., had been authorised and appointed to arrange for the isolation of suspected persons afloat, and the Permanent Committee were to put themselves in communication with him. Captain Hastings, on being referred to, stated that he had not been appointed and had no authority. He had only been asked to see if boats could be got, and how many. The Government scheme was to segregate in boats over at Stonecutters' island, near the mine field, all suspected persons, men, women, and children, and the boats to be used were what are called "marriage boats," utterly unseaworthy except in the smoothest water and best weather. Captain Hastings got his authority a day or two later. The Sanitary Board was not even consulted as to the practicability of this mad scheme, yet if it had to be carried out the Board would necessarily have the duty and responsibility of putting it in operation. The by-laws to give it effect could only be made by the Sanitary Board and, without the authority of the Board, it could not be enforced.

While Drs. Ayres and Lowson were recommending the careful isolation, for the full length of the incubation period, of all persons who had been in contact with plague patients or even in the same room, the Government were elaborating another plan of dealing with the plague patients themselves wholly inconsistent with the former. Recommendations from the medical committee already mentioned were sent the Permanent Committee, for their adoption, to the effect that persons attacked by the plague were to be left at liberty to leave the colony and go anywhere they would, provided it was over twenty miles, "as the crow flies," away from the colony. Piers east and west were to be set apart for this departure, cargo boats provided properly fitted, and matchsheds put up for their temporary accommodation, and the only duty incumbent on the sick was to report themselves to the officer on duty at the pier. There was no stipulation that they were only to go to a place where there was a hospital, none as to their fitness to go on such a voyage in a cargo boat. Thus, persons actually suffering from the plague were to be allowed to go whither they would to spread infection up and down through every village on the coast or in the river, provided it was only twenty miles away, while persons only suspected of having possibly caught the infection were to be forcibly imprisoned and quarantined in the colony. Of course the Sanitary Board, official and unofficial members alike, refused to have anything to do with carrying into operation these proposals.

From the beginning to the end the Government has not consulted the Sanitary Board or its Permanent Committee, with its valuable experience of last year, as to how any fresh visi-

tation of plague should be dealt with. It has consulted, apparently, every other person and every other body, including individual members of the Legislative Council and of the Chamber of Commerce. All the recommendations of the Board or of the Committee, even its last, that immigration from Macao should be stopped, have been disregarded. No acknowledgment even of that recommendation was received and nothing done until it was reported that women from an infected house were actually in the colony.

Under these circumstances we feel it useless to remain on the Board. We are doing no good and can render you no useful service. We think it better to resign, and concurrently with us the other unofficial members of the Board, nominated by the Government, have also resigned their seats on precisely the same grounds. We have acted throughout in consultation with them.

We hope you will approve of what we have done. We hope you will refuse to send to the Board any further representatives until the Government think fit to entrust the Sanitary Board with the power and authority possessed by any and every Sanitary Board in England, and we hope that you will support us in representing to the Secretary of State for the Colonies the deplorable position in which the colony is from a sanitary point of view because of the unwillingness of the Government departments to entrust to a popularly constituted body powers and responsibilities hitherto exercised by them in secret and unquestioned.

JNO. J. FRANCIS.  
R. K. LEIGH.

## SUPREME COURT.

25th April.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT—THE HON. W.  
M. GOODMAN (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE),  
AND MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH  
(ACTING PUSNE JUDGE).

HILL v. GOMES.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., made a motion for leave to appeal in the case of Hill v. Gomes.

Mr. Francis said that this was an *ex parte* motion for leave to appeal from the decision of the Court in Summary Jurisdiction, and the application was made under section 41 of the Summary Jurisdiction Ordinance. The appellant was J. Baptista Gomes, gentleman, of Macao, who was the defendant in the Court below, and the respondent was Robert Hunter Hill, merchant, of Swatow. The action was brought to recover \$1,000, part of a claim of \$1,103.59, the \$103.59 being abandoned for the purpose of bringing the case within the summary jurisdiction of the Court. The cause of the action arose out of certain share transactions. There was absolutely no dispute as to the facts, and the application was made on a point of law. The plaintiff had been the holder of shares in the Labuk Planting Company, Limited, which carried on business in Borneo, but was registered under the Hongkong Companies Act. The company had been for some time past in liquidation, and in April, 1889, Mr. Hill, who was the owner of a large number of shares in the company, directed his brokers, Messrs. Chater and Vernon, to sell fifty shares of the company, on which only one or two calls had been paid, and a large number of calls had still to be paid. Messrs. Chater and Vernon sold the shares to a broker, Mr. Gubbay, a gentleman well known in this colony. Mr. Hill, who was at that time in Swatow, had sent the scrip of the shares and the transfer filled in and signed by himself, so far as he possibly could, to his brokers, Messrs. Chater and Vernon, and they handed the scrip of the fifty shares and the transfer still in the bank, without the name of any purchaser filled in, and handed them to Mr. Gubbay, who gave a cheque for the amount.

His Lordship—I suppose that is the difficulty—the blank transfer?

Mr. Francis—Yes, the fact that it was a blank transfer.

Continuing, Mr. Francis said that Mr. Gubbay seemed to have acted only as a broker in the transaction, for he simply received the cheque from Mr. Gomes, and handed to him the scrip and the blank transfer. He purchased not as a principal, but under instructions.

His Lordship—There is no difference between



brokers and jobbers in Hongkong as there is in England.

Mr. Francis said that was so. Within a comparatively short period Mr. Gomes re-sold the shares. Then Mr. Hill was called upon to pay calls and Mr. Hill called upon Mr. Gomes to refund the money. It had been found impossible to discover in whose hands the scrip and the blank transfer are, or whether the transfer was ever filled in with the name of any purchaser.

His Lordship—That appears to me to be one of the great evils of this blank transfer business, which, I presume, was started to avoid the payment of Government stamps.

Mr. Francis said the real reason was that there was an enormous number of these kinds of transactions in those years, and owing to the rapidity with which the shares went from hand to hand, a blank transfer was used to facilitate business. Shares would change hands several times in the course of a week. Of course the result was that the payment of stamp duties on the several transfers was avoided. The primary motive was to facilitate business, and it was distinctly the practice on the Stock Exchange, as it was a mere matter of convenience. There were a large number of sales on the Stock Exchange between one settling day and the next, and the only transaction on which the stamp duty is paid is between the original vendor and the ultimate purchaser, though the shares might have passed through a dozen hands in the interval at varying prices and varying amounts of commission. Brokers in Hongkong had been doing, in a slightly different form, precisely what was done on the Stock Exchange in England. The contention of the defence was that there was a sale from Mr. Hill to Mr. Gomes, and in addition to the mere sale there was an understanding that Mr. Gomes was authorised by Mr. Hill either to fill in his own name on the blank transfer or to fill in the name of any nominee, or to hand the blank transfer to any purchaser with a like authority. It was abundantly clear that if a man handed over a blank transfer of that description he authorised the person to fill it in in a proper manner. Therefore, as Mr. Gomes had distinct authority to fill in his own name, or the name of his nominee, or to hand the papers to a third party, there was no contract of indemnity between the parties.

His Lordship—You are contending that the burden of seeing that the transfer was completed lay upon the vendor and not upon the vendee?

Mr. Francis—Certainly. In the second place we say that even if there was a contract to indemnify only during the time Gomes held the shares, the indemnity was against any calls made while Mr. Gomes was the owner of the shares and nothing further, and that the moment Mr. Gomes parted with the possession and ownership of these shares his liabilities were at an end, as well as his beneficial interest. It was precisely alike, in every respect, to the liability on a lease. The original lessee transfers the property of which he sold the lease to a sub-lessee. The sub-lessee undertakes to pay the rent and indemnify his lessor against all liabilities in respect of the rents and covenants, but as soon as he transfers his interest in the leasehold property to another person his liability to the original landlord and for the payment of the rent ceases. Mr. Francis then quoted cases in support of his contention.

His Lordship—I understand you to say that the facts are not in dispute.

Mr. Francis—No.

His Lordship—I think you have raised a very fair case, but of course I do not give any opinion as to the ultimate decision.

Mr. Francis—Your Lordship grants leave to appeal?

His Lordship—Yes.

## SERIOUS FIRE IN JERVOIS STREET.

### SHORTNESS OF WATER.

About ten o'clock on Wednesday night a fire broke out on the premises of Kwong Loong Yuen, 19, Jervois Street. As soon as the alarm was given the Fire Brigade, under Assistant Superintendent Corcoran, turned out, and was speedily on the scene. There was considerable delay, however, in obtaining an adequate supply of water, as the fresh water mains were cut off, and the firemen had to wait for a long time, with empty hose in their hands, for a supply from the harbour. Several minutes elapsed before steam could be got up on the fire engines, and the consequence

was that the fire obtained a good hold of the premises, which were used as a piece goods shop, before the firemen were able to play upon the flames; indeed the whole of the shop was ablaze, and great credit is due to the brigade for not only successfully coping with the fire in the space of an hour, but for confining the flames to the one shop. Just before the water arrived there seemed every probability that the fire would assume immense proportions, and this feeling was intensified by the fact that a stray spark from the burning building set fire to some kerosene and firewood which had been foolishly placed on the verandah of a shop opposite. The firemen, however, quickly extinguished this fire, and from the top of the house poured a continuous stream of water on the flames opposite. Several jets played upon the fire, but the building was completely gutted. The premises were insured with Messrs. Sienssen and Co. for \$7,500 and with Messrs. Stoltenfoht and Hagen for \$7,200. One or two firemen had narrow escapes from injury by the falling debris.

On Friday the charred remains of a Chinese tradesman were found amongst the debris at 19, Jervois Street, where the fire broke out on Wednesday night. It is supposed that he was suddenly overcome by the smoke and was unable to make his escape.

## ENTERTAINMENT AT CANTON.

Under the auspices of the Canton Amateur Dramatic Society a most successful entertainment was given at the Canton Club Theatre on Saturday last. The programme was varied and proceedings were opened by Mr. Brady, of the Hongkong Bank here, who made a most successful first appearance in Canton. He recited "The Midnight Charge," then gave a comic sketch entitled "Mr. Montpelier's recitation," and concluded by reciting "The house that Jack built." All these items were rendered by Mr. Brady in his best style and it is almost needless to add that they met with a most enthusiastic reception, "Mr. Montpelier's recitation" being perhaps most to the fancy of the audience.

The second division of the programme consisted of the one act comedietta "Uncle's Will," in which the characters were:—

Charles Cashmore, E.N. .... Mr. J. H. Perry  
Mr. Barker ..... Mr. E. T. Bond  
Florence Marigold ..... Mrs. Ruff.

An uncle bequeathed £50,000 to Charles Cashmore and Florence Marigold provided they married one another within a year of his death, and the parties are of course entirely averse to performing the contract and, it might be added, apparently equally so to giving up their claims to the legacy, which failing the marriage was to go to Mr. Barker. Ultimately they decide that it will be better to marry and so let the money come to themselves than to let it go to the formation of a home for mad dogs, for which Mr. Barker, whose sincerity in making this declaration is questionable, states he will employ it if it comes to him.

Mr. Perry acted well as Charles, showing an ability in grasping the character which many of his friends did not credit him with. Mrs. Ruff was a distinct success as Florence Marigold, her acting being spirited and graceful and her elocution remarkably good. Mr. Bond, though at times good, scarcely performed up to his reputation and his part hardly seemed to suit him.

The third part of the programme consisted of another entertainment by Mr. Brady, who gave a humorous sketch in the shape of "European Guides," which excited much merriment, and then sang "I handed it over to Riley" and "The Grass Widower," both of which justly earned a large amount of applause, and it was very evident that Mr. Brady is as popular in Canton as everywhere else.

The intervals were filled by the Canton Philharmonic Society, which played the "Calife de Bagdad" and the "Trip Away" and "Pearl of the Ocean" waltzes in commendable style. The general arrangements were excellent and reflect much credit on those whose care they were. It is to be hoped that after attaining such a favourable result to their efforts the inhabitants of Shamen will be tempted to make further ones and it can scarcely be doubted that they would be equally successful.

## DIFFERENTIAL DUTIES AT CANTON.

The appendix to the report of the Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce contains correspondence on the subject of the levy of differential duties at Canton. The earlier correspondence has already appeared in our columns, but the following letters have not hitherto been published:—

THE CANTON CHAMBER TO THE HONGKONG CHAMBER.

Canton Chamber of Commerce,  
Canton, 26th November, 1894.

Sir,—With regard to the subject of preferential duties at Canton and the recent correspondence relating thereto, which has been published in the *Hongkong Daily Press*, I am instructed by this Chamber to call your attention to the fact that the letter of the 1st September last, addressed by the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce to the Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, is calculated to have an effect somewhat injurious to the greater portion of the trade from this port to foreign countries, inasmuch as it advocates the passing of all cargo intended for export to foreign ports through the Imperial Maritime Customs, which virtually means an insistence upon the payment to the Chinese Government of the maximum rates of imposts allowable by treaty.

This Chamber considers that there is nothing in the treaties making the lowering of duties by the Chinese Government in any way an infraction of the treaty obligations.

The shipments hence by junk are not foreign owned, but native property conveyed in native bottoms for delivery to foreign buyers in Hongkong; they are not the property of the foreign buyer until the said delivery is made in Hongkong, and by conducting their business on this basis natives are enabled to sell at considerably lower rates, thereby benefitting the foreign buyer at this port or in Hongkong, and ultimately the consumer in Great Britain and elsewhere.

Merchants at this port and at Hongkong are distinctly benefited by such delivery of goods in Hongkong, such delivery being in no wise an infraction of anything in the treaty with Great Britain, and it being exceedingly doubtful (as admitted by the late Minister, Sir John Walsham, and late Consul, Sir Chaloner Alabaster) whether it could be taken as a contravention of Article III. of the Commercial Treaty between the United States and China of 17th November, 1850. This Chamber fails to see why the trade of this port should not be allowed to avail itself of the lower duties charged by the Chinese Government to their own subjects, in order to obtain produce delivered in Hongkong on more favourable terms than would otherwise be possible.

The interests of this port and Hongkong are doubtless identical in a great measure, but the assertion that your Chamber represents 90 per cent. of the trade hence is misleading, and I subjoin statistics of one of the most important branches of trade from this port, namely, that in tea, which speak for themselves.

Be the percentage represented by your Chamber what it may, merchants here are quite willing to treat all questions of treaty rights from an imperial point of view, and in this spirit they would urge your Chamber not to endeavour to obtain redress for a grievance which, as far as Hongkong is concerned, affects a portion of the shipping interest only, in a way calculated to be to the disadvantage of the trade from Canton in general.

The following particulars will demonstrate the proportionate extent of the interests involved; the gain to the tea trade during season 1894-1895, on the basis of the subjoined statistics of export has been, say:—

222,840 boxes at 20 lbs. each=piculs	
33,426, at half a tael per picul=	
\$23,212.50 plus cost of river freight	
\$5,571.00	= \$28,783.50
whilst the loss sustained to the shipping interests, calculated on the same basis, at 40 boxes to the ton, at \$1.00 per ton, has been.....	\$5,571.00
or, in other words, taking the tea trade only as an example, the joint interests of this port and Hongkong would be the losers by the prohibition of junk shipment, as carried on at present, to the extent of about .....	\$23,212.50
Further, the loss on freight on tea is 200 per	



cent. greater than that on chow-chow (or general) cargo, the rate charged being \$1.00 as against 30 cents per ton; it therefore follows that, were the whole volume of the various exports taken into consideration, the proportionate difference in the amount of the interests at stake would be more striking.

Some time ago, as you are doubtless aware, attempts were made to obtain a reduction of the lekin dues on tea, in order to enable this trade to compete with the Ceylon and Indian growth, and shipment by junk, at lower rate of duty, has, to a very appreciable extent, alleviated the burden then complained of.

I would, in conclusion, suggest that the course of action open in the matter, which would satisfy the shipping interests and not curtail the benefits now enjoyed by the export trade, would be to prevail upon the Chinese Government to bring down the duty levied on goods by foreign bottoms to the level of that charged on goods by native craft.

The Chamber is well aware of the difficulty of the task, but that is no reason for not attempting its accomplishment, and the Chamber would gladly co-operate in any efforts to secure a result so much to be desired, which would undoubtedly be for the best interests generally.—I am, &c.,

HERBERT DENT, Chairman.

To the Chairman, Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.

EXPORT OF TEA (PRINCIPALLY JUNK CARRIED) SHOWING THE AMOUNT EXPORTED BY CANTON FIRMS.

Firms.	1892.	1893.	1894.	Total.
Deacon & Co.	48,149	38,772	32,238	119,159
H. Dent & Co.	88,944	85,628	56,046	230,618
Rowe & Co.	94,661	57,758	54,434	207,053
F. O. Seaton	35,248	54,067	49,897	139,212
Reiss & Co.	113,180	51,737	30,225	195,142

380,382 287,962 222,840 891,184

Canton Firms, 72 per cent.  
Firms in Hongkong and Agency in Canton, 28 per cent.

#### THE HONGKONG CHAMBER TO THE CANTON CHAMBER.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong, 12th March, 1895.

Sir.—In begging reference to your esteemed communication of 26th November, I must express my regret that the reply to the question of the granting of preferential duties by the Hoppo of Canton with which it deals should have been allowed to stand over so long.

Commenting on this Chamber's letter of 1st September to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, you express an opinion that the suggestion contained therein to pass all cargo intended for export to foreign ports through the Imperial Maritime Customs virtually means an insistence upon the payment to the Chinese Government of the maximum rates of imports allowed by treaty. The suggestion in this instance, I may point out, was intended as an indication of how duties might be collected rather than a reference to the equity or otherwise of preferential duties, which was fully dealt with elsewhere in the letter.

The native Customs concerns itself exclusively with purely Chinese cargo (to be dealt with solely between natives and in transit to non-treaty ports), but all other cargo, native and foreign, is under the control of the Imperial Maritime Customs, whose tariff is regulated by treaty, and it was only cargo coming under that category the Chamber suggested should be so treated.

Though there is no explicit provision made in any of the treaties to guard against the introduction of lower duties into the tariff, this Chamber cannot agree with you in considering that so doing is not an infringement of treaty rights, because, as has been previously pointed out, to charge lower duties on junk carried cargo is obviously the same, in effect, as to impose higher duties on cargo carried by foreign vessels. The contention of the representatives of the Steamboat Companies has all along been that granting of preferential duties to cargo in native bottoms places these companies at a disadvantage as public carriers, and is a departure from the terms of treaties which were framed with the view of placing all those trading at the open ports on an equal footing.

The question of preferential duties was first brought to the notice of the Chamber in a letter dated 10th September, 1891, signed by the representatives of some of the leading shipping

firms in the Colony, pointing out that the carrying trade was being very largely diverted from foreign steamers to native junks in consequence of the granting of these duties, which they contended was a direct infringement of treaty rights—a contention which the Committee of the Chamber were asked to support, and in which they fully concurred. Subsequent correspondence showed that the action taken by the Chamber in endeavouring to get these duties abolished was approved of by the Foreign Office, and also elicited the fact that the Ministers of the Tsungli Yamén had admitted their irregularity. Mr. T. H. Sanderson, writing to the Chairman of this Chamber on 20th May, 1892, by direction of the Marquess of Salisbury, stated—"I am to request that you will inform your Chamber that Her Majesty's Minister at Peking brought this subject verbally before the Ministers of the Tsungli Yamén at an interview with them on the 18th of March last. He represented that this inequality of taxation was opposed to the spirit of the treaties between Foreign Powers and China, and claimed that the native tariff could not, as regarded produce carried coastwise between treaty ports or between a treaty port and a foreign country, be so manipulated as to place native vessels on a more favourable footing than foreign vessels."

The Chinese Ministers admitted that the action of the Hoppo had been irregular, and stated that they had already written to the Government of Canton on the subject. Only a few days previously they had received a telegram from the Viceroy, stating, on the authority of the Hoppo, that the reduction in the native tariff no longer existed.

"The Viceroy had added that if any irregularities were still practised they must be due to unauthorized action on the part of the Hoppo's subordinates."

The figures put forward, for which the Chamber begs to thank you, showing a gain of \$23,212.00 in the tea trade for 1894-95 are interesting, but it seems very doubtful how much of this benefited foreigners and how much natives. While referring to the subject of statistics I may mention that you are under a misapprehension in supposing the Chamber had advanced the statement that it represented probably nine-tenths of the commercial interests of Canton.

If, as you suggest, the Chinese Government could be prevailed upon to lower the duties on cargo carried by foreign vessels to the level of that carried by junks, and provided that the duties by both were permanently the same, an easy solution of the vexed question of preferential duties would be arrived at; but as similar concessions would without doubt be demanded at all other ports, it seems unlikely that the Chinese would be found willing to submit to so serious a deduction from their Customs revenue.

The Chamber would very willingly avail of your offer of co-operation, but as revision of the tariff in the direction of higher duties is reported to have been already mooted, it would be desirable to await the issue of present complications between China and Japan before agitating for a reformed tariff.—I remain, &c.,

J. J. KESWICK, Chairman.

Herbert F. Dent, Esq., Chairman,  
Chamber of Commerce Canton.

#### THE HONGKONG CHAMBER TO THE HONGKONG GOVERNMENT.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong, 19th March, 1895.

Sir.—Begging reference to your esteemed communication of 13th December, which I already have had the pleasure to acknowledge, referring to the action of the Hoppo of Canton in granting to the owners of junk carried cargo from that port a more favourable scale of duties than is charged on cargo shipped by foreign vessels, and requesting to be furnished with an expression of opinion from the Chamber on the subject—a request to which I have much pleasure in responding.

The question of these preferential duties was first brought to the notice of the Committee of the Chamber on the 10th September, 1891, by the representatives of some of the principal steamship companies trading with Hongkong complaining that tea, which had formerly been carried between Canton and Hongkong almost entirely by foreign steamers, was being diverted to junks, and that for some months previous

to the date of their letter the entire export of tea had been carried by native craft, the reason alleged being the inducement offered to native traders by the Hoppo of Canton to ship their tea by junk and pass it through the native Custom House, by charging a much lower duty than would have been imposed by the Imperial Maritime Customs had the tea been carried by foreign vessels. Subsequent events have fully justified the truth of this allegation, but the devious ways in which the system is carried out renders proof as difficult now as it was formerly.

The chief sufferers by this change were, of course, the River Steamboat Companies by direct loss of freight, but the Ocean Steamship owners were also adversely affected by the irregular and uncertain connection between the tea-laden junks and their steamers. If the junk arrived some days in advance of the homeward bound steamer (touching at Hongkong for cargo) the tea had to be stored and insured at the expense of the owners until she was ready to receive, or if the junks made a long passage the steamers were often delayed until their arrival, or expenses were incurred in sending steam-launches to meet and tow them down. In the case of mail steamers having a fixed date for leaving, the junks on several occasions arrived after the departure of the steamers, and the freight on the cargo for which space had been reserved was consequently lost.

The contention of the steamship owners which the Committee had been asked to support, and in which they fully concur, is that the granting of such duties is in opposition to both the text and the spirit of the treaties entered into between the Foreign Powers and China, and is a direct infringement of the rights of those trading under these treaties, more particularly as regards Articles XIV. of the French Treaty of 1858 and III. of the American Treaty of 1880, which are applicable to all the different treaties under the favoured nation clause. The Committee cannot agree with Sir Chaloner Alabaster, late Consul-General at Canton, in the following opinion expressed by him when in communication with the Foreign Office:—"With reference to your appeal to the United States Treaty of 1880, that the United States have never themselves claimed the full extent of the third Article, which is quoted in your letter of the 23rd September to Sir J. Walsham, and he appears to think that there would be great practical difficulty in carrying it completely into effect." That the Americans should have failed to avail themselves to the full extent of Article III. cannot be considered to have in any way invalidated that clause or lessened its effect either as regards America herself or other nations who may choose to avail of it.

It has been contended that because there is no specific provision in any of the treaties against lowering the scale of duties that, therefore, the Chinese are within their rights in granting preferential duties, but the granting of lower duties on cargo by native craft is obviously tantamount in its effects to imposing higher rates on cargo carried by foreign vessels, and it has not been suggested that under any circumstances could the treaties be construed to admit of higher duties being charged.

Her Majesty's Minister at Peking, who has evinced great interest in the question of preferential duties, has expressed himself anxious to be furnished with positive proof that such concessions are made, but though it is an easy matter to get particulars of many instances in which that has been done, it is impossible to get any Chinaman to substantiate these particulars, not only through dread of their own officials, but also through fear that giving evidence of such a nature might in some way, however remote the contingency, work to his disadvantage. This difficulty has not escaped the notice of your Excellency, nor is the absence of positive proof a matter of very great importance when there exists the admission of the Minister of the Tsungli Yamén before Sir John Walsham that the action of the Hoppo had been irregular, and stated that they had already written to the Government of Canton on the subject. Only a few days previous they had received a telegram from the Viceroy stating, on the authority of the Hoppo, that the reduction in the native tariff no longer existed.

"The Viceroy had added that if any irregularities were still practised they must be due to the



unauthorized action on the part of the Hoppo's subordinates."

The foregoing remarks deal only with tea, but other articles such as cassia, rattans, feathers, bristles, &c., which are largely dealt in, have also been diverted from steamers to native junks owing to the existence of preferential duties which continue to be granted.

The Imperial Government has on more than one occasion prohibited the granting of these preferential duties, and though the local authorities for a time respected its mandates, these were after a while invariably disregarded.

The subject of preferential duties is so exhaustively dealt with in the accompanying correspondence, to which I beg to ask your kind attention, that it seems unnecessary to trouble you with any lengthy discussion, as I venture to think a reference to the correspondence will tend to strengthen the opinion your Excellency seems to have already formed of the importance of a question having a direct bearing on so large a volume of the trade of the colony.

I am glad to notice that you consider the present crisis will probably present a favourable opportunity to press the matter home.—I have, &c.,

J. J. KEAWICK, Chairman.

To His Excellency Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G., &c., &c., &c.

### THE NEW PORTS.

According to reliable native information a change in the places to be opened to foreign trade has been made. These places are to be Hangchow, in Chekiang, Wuchow, in Kwangsi, Shaohing, in Kwangtung, Kaifong, in Honan, and Chungking, in Szechuen, the opening of the latter not being satisfactory to the Japanese, they insisting upon further privileges.

It is further stated that China will have to pay Japan annually the sum of Tls. 500,000 to defray the expense of maintaining a Japanese garrison at Weihai, which payment and occupation is to continue for six years.—*Mercury*.

### NORTH-CHINA INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

On the 23rd April the third ordinary general meeting of the shareholders was held at Shanghai. Mr. E. H. Lavers (Chairman) presided.

The Chairman said—Gentlemen, the directors' report and balance sheet for the year ended 31st December last have been in your possession for some time, and doubtless have received that attention at your hands which they call for, and with your permission we will take them as read. I have a few remarks to make as to various items in the statement of accounts, which, however, will not, I think, detain the meeting for any great length of time. First of all, it is gratifying to note a substantial increase in our net premium of nearly Tls. 155,000 over that of the preceding year. This is in a measure due to the lower book rate of exchange at which sterling premiums have been converted, and is also attributable to the additional premium received for war risks, which have, as yet, been a profitable source of income to the company, and have likewise to a certain extent compensated for the depression in business and disturbance of trade, brought about by the hostilities existing between China and Japan during the last half of the year. In the second place, I would point out a satisfactory increase in our interest account amounting to Tls. 5,300, and at credit of exchange account Tls. 36,648.79, being in excess of last year Tls. 22,657, but the latter is as you are aware only a book account, and entries are affected on the other side of the working account increasing the total amounts of expenses and losses, but in the aggregate these compare favourably with preceding years, having due regard to the increased revenue and business transacted. I must here, however, allude to the London charges, which look extremely heavy as regards the total amount, Tls. 67,848.85. I may mention that the difference between this year and last arises principally in exchange, the rate taken in 1893 being 4s. and this year at 3s. 4d. for the conversion of sterling into taels. The sterling expenditure in London and Manchester for 1894 was in reality about £550 less than the previous year, and further reductions are now pending, and will be shown in the accounts for 1895.

The results of the past year's working as estimated in the report may, I think, be looked upon as altogether favourable, and the accounts are so clearly stated that they really require little explanation. I trust they will be accepted by you as generally satisfactory, especially in view of the fact that this is the first occasion since the year 1889 that the position of affairs has enabled the directors to recommend an addition to the reserve fund, the building up of which is so important and essential to the progress and prosperity of the company. Before putting the first resolution to the meeting for the adoption of the report and balance sheet I shall be happy to answer any questions you may have to ask with reference to them.

There being no questions,

The Chairman proposed that the report and accounts, as now presented, be adopted and passed.

Mr. A. R. Hearn seconded and the resolution was carried unanimously.

Proposed by Mr. E. H. Lavers, and seconded by Mr. W. Brand, it was agreed that the following distribution of profits for the year 1894 be now declared:—Interest at the rate of 10 per cent. upon the paid-up capital, payable in Shanghai at the exchange of 3s. 0½d. per tael; a bonus of 15 per cent. on contributory premium; and an addition of Tls. 50,000 to the reserve fund.

Mr. E. H. Lavers proposed, Mr. A. McLeod seconded, and it was agreed *nem. con.*, that the directors be and are hereby authorised to close up the accounts of the year 1894, as soon as they had it expedient to do so, and that the balance of profit (if any) be applied in such manner as the Court of Directors may deem conducive to the interests of the company.

It was resolved, upon the motion of Mr. E. Jenner Hogg, seconded by Mr. R. M. Campbell, that Messrs Brand, Davis, Hearn, Holliday, Lavers, Little, McLeod, and Welch be elected directors of the company for the ensuing year, and that their remuneration be Tls. 6,000.

Mr. J. M. Young proposed and Mr. Yeend Duer seconded the re-election of Mr. Aug. White as auditor.

For the vacancy occasioned by the retirement of Mr. Burman there were two candidates, Mr. F. H. Bell, proposed by Mr. Yeend Duer and seconded by Mr. F. H. Haskell, and Mr. C. W. Wrightson, proposed by Mr. Heath and seconded by Mr. Kenny. Upon a ballot Mr. Aug. White and Mr. Bell were elected.

The proceedings then terminated.—*N.C. Daily News*.

### PUNJOM MINING CO., LIMITED.

The following is the Manager's report for March, 1895:—

August Shaft 200 feet Level.—Good progress has again been made in extending the No. 2 Crosscut, 33 feet 6 inches having been driven, making its total length 241 feet. The face is still in good looking country, and letting out water freely.

Intermediate 140 feet Level.—The drive on Phillips' leader has been extended 7 feet 6 inches, and connected with the east crosscut.

The east drive to connect with the winze being sunk at date of my last report below the 110 feet level has been extended 9 feet, and the connection made. Stopping will now be commenced there. Two winzes have been commenced in the bottom of this level to open up stopping ground, and should connect with the 200 feet level within the coming month. Depth sunk, No. 1 winze 23 feet, No. 2 winze 15 feet 3 inches. The stoppes over this level are now giving fairly good ore for the mill, as is also the No. 1 winze. The winze on No. 4 leader at the 110 feet level has connected with the drive put out to meet it, and men are now engaged stopping. The ore, so far, is poor, but I have reasons for expecting an improvement soon. Depth sunk 35 feet.

110 Feet Level.—The winze we were sinking on the course of the north and south reef at date of my last report has, as before mentioned, connected with the intermediate level.

Upper Stoppes.—These have given a large quantity of low grade ore for the mill. The drives and stoppes south of the August shaft continue to yield ore of very fair quality. Total driveage at this point 202 feet. The operations we were carrying on to the west of the big outcrop of quartz failing to find any thing of

value, work there has been discontinued. Distance sunk and driven 41 feet 6 inches.

Mill Gully Tunnel.—The south drive on the course of this reef has been extended 11 feet 6 inches, and has been stopped for the present. I hope to resume work at this point again shortly; however. Exceptionally good progress has been made in driving north, the contractor having completed the 100 feet and earned the bonus offered. This point has connected with the little air shaft, and is now well ventilated. We should connect with the deep workings at the Kladi Tunnel within the next fortnight, when all ore raised there will be brought to the mill through this tunnel. I need not tell you that this will completely drain the Kladi workings at their lowest level.

Kladi Tunnel.—This point is receiving a good deal of attention, and good progress is being made, the total distance driven and sunk equaling 226 feet. The reef here continues to give fair grade ore, and looks most promising for improvement. Of course there are many small drivages which can hardly find a place in this report. Total driveage for the month 754 feet 3 inches. The quantity of ore mined is 954 tons, made up as follows:—

Upper Stoppes .....	560 tons.
August Shaft .....	119 "
South of August Shaft ..	33 " 10 cwt.
Mill Gully .....	46 " 10 "
Kladi Tunnel .....	235 "

Milling.—This was carried on during 28 days, crushing 1,360 tons, yielding 450 ounces 6 dwts., viz., 960 tons from the mines for 416 ounces 6 dwts., and 400 tons of headings for 40 ounces of smelted gold.

Cyanide Works.—Thanks to the fine weather we are having, good progress is now being made with the erection of this. There is still much to be done, however, but the end of April should see the plant nearly, if not quite, ready for starting.

General.—The usual attention is being given to all work coming under this head. We have now two large gangs of coolies road making, so as to get in our supplies of firewood, etc., before the next monsoon, and a further gang is clearing a track to Bapong, where we have put up the necessary appliances for lime burning to supply the cyanide plant.

Labour.—This is fairly plentiful. The health of the camp continues fairly good.

### RAUB.

The following is the Mining Manager's report for the four weeks ending the 12th April, 1895:—

Raub Hole Section. Main Engine Shaft No. 1 Level.—The crosscut going west to cut the original workings is now in 60 feet. The face is still in hard blasting slate, but it shows signs of approaching the old workings. This is the only work being done at this level.

Intermediate Level.—We are still stopping on the lode at this level, but the lode which has pinched small does not show so much gold. It will not take long to finish working out these stoppes.

No. 2 Level.—The main drive going south is now in 218 feet from the crosscut. The ground in the face is hard blasting ground; the lode is from 3 to 6 inches wide, but shows no gold. We have about 50 feet still to drive to meet the level coming north from the No. 2 shaft.

No. 2 Shaft South.—At the date of my last report we had just commenced to sink this shaft. Since then a recess has been cut, and a tank fixed to take up the water from the level. The steam-pump taking the water from this tank, a draw-lift has been fixed in the shaft to pump the water into the tank. The draw-lift is worked from the main rod of the steam pump. The shaft is now down 18 feet below the level. 15 feet has been sunk and 3 feet timbered, besides cutting recess for tank and fixing the pump. Good progress should now be made as everything is in order. The ground in the bottom of the shaft is hard diorite, but it blasts fairly well.

Main Drive North.—This is now in 113 feet from the crosscut. The lode in the face is 2 feet wide in the bottom and one foot wide in the top of the drive and carries a little gold. I am sanguine that in the next level the lode will open out and make continuous instead of a narrow chute as hitherto.

Stoppes.—There are four stoppes at work south



of the winze and two north. The south stopes have all now got into the lode again above the break. The lode will average from one to two feet wide and shows fair gold. In the stopes going north the lode is small, from 6 to 8 inches, but carries very good gold. There is still a large amount of payable ground to work in these stopes.

**Bukit Koman.**—There is no change in the prospects of this section. The only work being carried on is stoping over the main level and on the leader formation in the engine shaft. The lode in the stopes continues as large as ever; the stopes are now opened for over 120 feet along the lode and will average fully 15 ft. wide, the whole of which is being crushed. Gold can be seen right across the lode. I estimate there is ore enough in these stopes to keep the present battery fully employed for at least the next two years.

On the leader formation in the engine shaft a block of ground about 25 feet square has been stoped out. Some very good specimen stone was got, but the leaders are small, very irregular and the ground hard blasting. There is a large extent of this leader formation, but owing to the hardness of the ground I don't think it will pay to work. I intend prospecting it further.

As soon as the large pump, now on its way from England, arrives; it is my intention to at once start sinking the engine shaft another 100 feet, so as to keep our reserves well ahead of our requirements.

**Western Lode.**—The only work being carried on in this section is stoping north and south from the north air shaft. In the north stopes the lode is from 1 to 2 feet thick, in which gold can be seen in breaking. The ground in these stopes is soft pick ground and very easily worked. In the stopes going south the lode is from 1 to 4 feet thick and shows fair gold the full length of the stopes, about 140 feet. There is a large extent of good payable ore to take out in these stopes, which are easy and inexpensive to work.

**Battery.**—On the 1st inst. a general clean up of this took place, 2,560 tons of ore yielding 1,052 oz. 4 dwts. 0 grs. smelted gold, being an average of 8 dwts. 5 grs. per ton. Although this average is low it leaves a margin of profit over cost of fully 40 per cent. Crushing was resumed again on the afternoon of the 2nd inst., and has been continued night and day since.

**Railway.**—Fair progress is being made with the section from the mill to the western lode shaft, and good progress is being made with the delivery of timber for bridges and sleepers. More coolies will be put on as we are ready to do so. I find no difficulty in getting the necessary labour.

W. BIRBY,  
Mining Manager.

### HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

There was a good attendance of twenty-three members to compete for the Martini-Henry cup last Saturday. The result of the last two practices demonstrates the fact that at short ranges the Martini is quite equal to the Magazine rifle. The spoons were won by Corporal Dowsett, R.B., Private Ratty, R.B., Mr. Webber, R.E., Sergt.-Major Morrish, R.B., Colour-Sergeant Finney, R.B., and Colour Sergeant Lacey, R.B. The following were the best scores:—

	200 yards.	500 yards.	600 yards.	H'cap points.	Total.
Corpl. Dowsett, R.B.	19	23	22	4.....	68
Private Ratty, R.B.	23	22	18	4.....	65
Mr. Webber, R.E.	20	23	16	2.....	61
St.-Mjr. Morrish, R.B.	21	20	16	4.....	61
C.-Sergt. Finney, R.B.	22	22	16	—.....	60
C.-Sergt. Lacey, R.B.	17	23	19	4.....	59
Lieut. Hoey, R.B.	20	17	18	4.....	59
Major Wrottesley	23	21	15	—.....	59

A Peking telegram to the *N. C. Daily News* states that Kon Pao-chong, formerly Admiral of the Nanking Squadron, who was dismissed last autumn by the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung, has been appointed Brigadier-General of Canton, and has been granted an Imperial audience.

A Yokohama telegram of the 23rd April to the *Mercury* says:—The Sasebo Prize Court held on the Indo-China S.N. Co.'s steamer *Yik-sang* have examined all the Chinese and are now examining the Europeans. The captain has asked to have his ship released, offering 160,000 yen as guarantee.

### HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB LAWN TENNIS TOURNAMENT.

The following are the results to date:—

CHAMPIONSHIP.	
G. Stewart scratched to G. H. Potts.	
A. S. Anton beat Dr. Lowson.	
C. W. Knox, R.B., beat G. H. Potts—6-1, 6-2, 0-6, 6-3	
C. C. Platt beat A. S. Anton—6-3, 6-3, 7-5	
C. M. Firth beat F. Maitland—6-2, 6-1, 6-3	
G. Balloch scratched to C. A. Tomes	
DOUBLE HANDICAP.	
E. A. Ram and Surgeon-Major Reade scratched to R. M. Gray and C. A. Tomes.	
C. F. Mackay and A. Sharp beat C. F. Harton and Ross Thomson.	
E. W. Maitland and P. G. Anderson, H.K. Regiment, beat E. M. Hazeland and E. J. Mengens.	
C. Inchbald and S. L. Darby scratched to C. W. Knox, R.B., and C. Percival, R.B.	
F. Maitland and G. H. Potts beat C. W. Arnould and A. Donald.	
H. Humphreys and J. A. Jupp scratched to E. A. Measor and C. H. Gale.	
"A" CLASS HANDICAP.	
C. C. Platt beat R. W. Mounsey.	
G. H. Potts beat E. J. Grist.	
H. Humphreys scratched to G. H. Potts.	
C. M. Firth beat F. Maitland	
P. Sheldon scratched to G. Stewart.	
C. M. Firth beat W. Newton—6-1, 1-6, 6-4	
"B" CLASS HANDICAP.	
R. B. Garde, R.N., beat F. Collins and C. Inchbald.	
S. L. Darby beat C. W. Arnould.	
E. S. Ezekiel beat S. L. Darby.	
R. E. Humphreys beat C. H. Gale.	
E. A. Measor beat Ross Thomson.	
E. M. Hazeland beat W. R. Stewart, R.E.	
J. A. Jupp beat A. H. Mancell.	
G. Lysley, R.B., beat J. E. Ezekiel.	
G. A. Woodcock beat F. Barrington Deacon	
R. E. Humphreys beat E. A. Measor—6-1, 6-2	
R. B. Garde beat E. E. Ezekiel—6-1, 9-7	
G. Lysley, R.B., scratched to G. A. Woodcock	
PROFESSION PAIRS.	
T. Sercombe Smith and E. A. Ram scratched to K. W. Mounsey and E. J. Grist.	
Dr. Atkinson and Surgeon-Major Reade beat P. G. Anderson and W. C. M. Woodcock, H.K. Regt.	
C. W. Knox and C. Percival, R.B., beat A. S. Anton and F. N. Firth.	
G. Stewart and G. H. Potts scratched to E. W. Maitland and P. B. Sheldon	
Dr. Atkinson and Surgeon-Major Reade beat C. W. Knox, R.B., and C. Percival, R.B.—6-3, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4	

### ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

The race for a handsome cup presented by Commodore Boyes, R.N., the Commodore of the Club, took place on the 21st April, and resulted in a very close and interesting contest. It has become almost a tradition of the Club that the Commodore's Cup produces a good race, and certainly this one rivalled if not excelled any which have preceded it. The old *Arrow* made her first appearance as a racer for many a long year, and showed by the way she led round the course that there is plenty of pace in the old boat still. She was ably handled by Mr. Carey and his crew. Mr. Cooke's new boat, the *Dolphin*, also made her debut in the arena. She is a cruising centreboarder and is built with a raised house amidships. She proved, however, by no means a despicable antagonist and had a ding-dong race with *Payne* all day, only being beaten by her by about a minute. *Erica* made a very fine performance. In a steady wholsail breeze without a fluke she beat the *Payne* by 8 mins and *Dart* by 11 mins. Very unfortunately for her owner she was protested against for an infringement of the rule of the road and disqualified by the Committee. The second class boats *Elfin* and *She* looked very dangerous at times; they stuck like leeches to the first division, and in the result *She* only lost the prize by a little over a minute.

Name.	Owner.	Rating.
<i>Arrow</i>	Lieut. Casey's cutter	6.0
<i>Dolphin</i>	Mr. E. Cooke's sloop	1.9
<i>Dart</i>	Dr. Lowson's lug	1.5
<i>Erica</i>	Mr. A. Denison's lug	1.5
<i>Payne</i>	Royal Engineers' lug	1.6
<i>Ladybird</i>	Mr. C. D. Wilkinson's lug	1.4
<i>Stella</i>	Capt. Stirling's, A.D.C., lug	1.6
<i>Cam</i>	Mr. F. Howell's lug	1.3
<i>Elfin</i>	Mr. G. P. Lammert's lug	
<i>She</i>	Mr. C. H. Gale's lug	
<i>Seabreeze</i>	Sgt.-Major Westcott's lug	
<i>May Queen</i>	Mr. A. Donald's lug	

Course.—From the Police Pier, Kowloon, round mark boat off Lyemun (port), Kowloon Rock (port), No. 1 Dock Buoy (port), mark boat off Lyemun (port), Kowloon Rock (port), and finish across the starting line at the Police Pier, Kowloon, from East to West.

Handicap.—*Arrow* allows *Dart* 10 minutes; *Erica* and *Dolphin*, 12 minutes; *Payne*, 13

minutes; *Ladybird*, 15 minutes; *Stella*, 16 minutes; *Cam*, 17 minutes; *Elfin*, 20 minutes; *She*, 21 minutes; *Seabreeze* and *May Queen*, 25 minutes.

At gunfire there was steady wholsail breeze from E.S.E. The start was from the Police Pier, Kowloon, instead of from the usual starting line, a change which was much appreciated by the competitors. One of the prettiest starts of the year was made, *Stella* and *Ladybird* reaching in and hauling round the mark boat and across the line within 5 secs. of gunf. *Arrow* crossed the line immediately afterwards in fine style with everything drawing and looking like a veritable Triton amongst the minnows.

There was a strong ebbtide taking the fleet to windward and by the time North Point was reached *Arrow* and *Erica* had come away from the rest. Most of the fleet hugged the Hong-kong shore in short tacks, as the tide was better there, but *Stella* made a long leg towards the mainland, where the wind was not so favourable, and this, together with the fact that she carried away her peak halliards, put her out of the race.

The Lyemun mark was rounded thus:—*Arrow*, *Erica* (close up), then *Payne*, *Dolphin*, *Dart*, *Ladybird*, *Elfin*, *She*, &c.

Spinnakers were set for the run to the Kowloon Rock and after passing Channel Rocks a jibe was necessary. The wind freshened considerably on the broad reach to the Dock Buoy and the boats were filling their lee decks with water and leaving a foaming wake behind. They hauled to the wind round the Dock Buoy in much the same order except that *Ladybird* passed *Dart*.

On the second beat to windward *Arrow* and *Erica* were sailing a fine race and leaving their competitors far behind. *Elfin* when well up split her working jib and had to retire. *Erica* passed *Arrow* in the beat to windward and rounded the Lyemun mark before her.

Spinnakers were again set for the run to Kowloon Rock and *Arrow* soon passed *Erica* again and rounded the Kowloon Rock about 3 mins. ahead of her; then came *Payne*, *Dolphin*, *Dart*, *Ladybird*, &c.

On rounding the Dock Point spinnakers were set for the run home and a most enjoyable race finished thus:—

	H.	M.	S.
<i>Arrow</i> (third)	2	9	55
<i>Erica</i> (first, disqualified)	2	13	39
<i>Payne</i> (second)	2	21	17
<i>Dolphin</i>	2	22	33
<i>Dart</i>	2	24	16
<i>Ladybird</i>	2	25	15
<i>She</i>	2	30	52
<i>Cam</i>	2	39	10
<i>Seabreeze</i>	2	43	53
<i>May Queen</i>			not timed
<i>Stella</i>			
<i>Elfin</i>			gave up

A meeting of the Sailing Committee was held on board the *Solent* after the race and the *Erica* was held to be disqualified on the protest of the *Arrow*.

Miss Boyes then presented the Cup to Lieut. W. M. Thompson, R.E., the helmsman of the *Payne*.

### SHANGHAI RACES.

FIRST DAY, 29th April.

We are indebted to the Manager of the Cable Companies for the results of Monday's races at Shanghai.

The SUBSCRIPTION STAKES; a Sweepstakes of Tls. 5 each, with Tls. 100 added; for subscription griffins of this meeting only; second pony, Tls. 25; weight for inches as per scale. Three quarters of a mile.

Mr. Pluck's Sir Charles, 10st. 9lbs. .... 1  
Mr. Sylva's Red Star, 10st. 9lbs. .... 2  
Mr. Crowd's Procession, 10st. 9lb. .... 3  
Time, 1 min. 33 secs.

The CRITERION STAKES; a Sweepstakes of Tls. 10, with Tls. 200 added, second pony, Tls. 50; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale. One mile.

Mr. Ring's Orion, 10st. 12lbs. .... 1  
Mr. Henry Morrish's Blackberry, 11st. 4lbs. .... 2  
Mr. Uto's Sans Pareil, 10st. 12lbs. .... 3  
Time, 2 min. 23 secs.

The GRIFFINS' PLATE; value, Tls. 500; for China ponies that have never run at any meeting, second pony, Tls. 100; weight for inches as per scale; entrance, Tls. 5. Three-quarters of a mile.



May 1, 1895.]

# CHINA OVERLAND TRADE REPORT.

333

Mr. Ring's Invader, 11st. 11b. ....	1
Mr. Sturgis' Vaquero, 11st. 11b. ....	2
Mr. Tang Chia's Pierrot, 10st. 12lbs. ....	3
Time, 1 min. 30½ secs.	
The CATHAY CUP; value Tls. 150; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; griffins at date of entry allowed 10lbs.; entrance, Tls. 5. One mile and a half.	
Mr. Toeg's Tigris, 10st. 5lbs. ....	1
Mr. Kanuck's Komatsu, 10st. 5lbs. ....	2
Mr. Pelham's 'Enery' Awkins 11st. 11b. ....	3
Time, 3 min. 16 secs.	
The JOCKEY CUP; value, Tls. 100; for China ponies that have never won a race; second pony, Tls. 25; to be ridden by Jockeys who have never had a winning mount; weight for inches as per scale; entrance, Tls. 5. One round.	
Mr. Kanuck's Little Prince, 10st. 9lbs. ....	1
Mr. Sylva's Red Cross, 11st. 11b. ....	2
Mr. Glenday's Rocket, 11st. 11b. ....	3
Time, 2 min. 42 secs.	
The KIANGSU PLATE; value Tls. 150; for China ponies; second pony, Tls. 50; weight for inches as per scale; entrance, Tls. 5. One mile and three quarters.	
Mr. Hampton's Eclipse, 11st. 11b. ....	1
Mr. Tin Wo's Diablotin, 10st. 12lbs. ....	2
Mr. Robson's Blue Peter, 11st. 11b. ....	3
Time, 3 min. 38½ secs.	
The HART LEGACY CUP; presented by the late Mr. James Hart; value, Tls. 100; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; entrance, Tls. 5. Half a mile.	
Mr. Oswald's Ravelston, 11st. 4lbs. ....	1
Mr. Ambrose's Certaintee, 11st. 4lbs. ....	2
Mr. Common's Hollyhook, 11st. 11b. ....	3
Time, 59 min. ¾ sec. 10 starters.	
The RACING STAKES; a sweepstakes of Tls. 10 each; for China ponies that have never run before 1st January, 1895; second pony, Tls. 50; griffins at date of entry allowed 5lbs.; weight for inches as per scale; winners, 5lbs. extra. One mile and a quarter.	
Messrs. Toeg & Barley's Mississippi, 10st. 7lbs. ....	1
Mr. Ring's The Rattler 10st. 10lbs. ....	2
Mr. Uto's Sans Regret, 10st. 13lbs. ....	3
Time, 2 min. 42 secs.	
The ROADSTERS' PLATE; value Tls. 100; for China ponies (without restriction as to height) not otherwise entered at this meeting and that have never won a race; weight, 11st. 11lb.; entrance, Tls. 5. Once round.	
Mr. Ring's Bravo, 11st. 11b. ....	1
Mr. Dennis' Wagtail, 11st. 11b. ....	2
Mr. Sturgis' Dido, 11st. 11b. ....	3
Time, 2 min. 42 secs. 7 starters	
The GRAND STAND STAKES; a Sweepstakes of Tls. 10 each; for China ponies, being <i>bona fide</i> griffins at date of entry, which had not arrived in Shanghai, or been purchased prior to 1st February, 1895; second pony, Tls. 50; subscription griffins of this meeting, the winner of the Subscription Stakes excepted, allowed 5lbs.; weight for inches as per scale; winner of any race 7lbs. extra. One mile.	
Mr. Uto's Sans Doute, 11st. 4lbs. ....	1
Mr. Ring's The Rattler, 11st. 11b. ....	2
Mr. Sturgis' Vaquero, 11st. 11b. ....	3
Time, 2 min. 5 secs.	

## HONGKONG.

The plague has unfortunately made its appearance in the colony, three cases being reported on Monday. Of course every precaution is being taken to prevent the disease from obtaining a hold in Hongkong, and, in addition to the stoppage of immigration from Macao, the Chinese passengers and boats from Canton are medically examined in port. The position of affairs in regard to the Sanitary Board remains in about the same position as it was last week. At a meeting of the Board on Thursday the resignations of Mr. J. J. Francis and Mr. R. K. Leigh, the elected members, were announced, and they have since issued an address to their electors. Dr. Hartigan and the Hon. Ho Kai, the unofficial members nominated by the Government, have also sent in their resignations. At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. H. May, the Vice-President, strongly condemned landlords for not complying with the sanitary by-laws. During the week Miss Grace Hawthorne and company have been performing at the Theatre Royal. There was a fire in Jervois Street on Monday night, and one of the occupants was burned to death.

We regret to learn from the *Straits Times* that Mr. H. B. Lethbridge, Superintendent of Victoria Gaol, who left for home by the P. & O. steamer *Manila* on leave, had to be landed at Singapore, suffering from a severe attack of fever. His temperature was as high as 105.

The Union Church was well filled on Saturday afternoon, when Mr. Sangster and Mr. Geo. Grimble gave another organ recital. The performance was in every way excellent and well appreciated, and the vocal renderings of Miss Lammert Dr. Meadows, and Mr. W. E. Crow were very fine indeed.

The following is the constitution of the WONG-NEI-CHONG Recreation Ground Committee as approved by His Excellency the Governor:— Chairman, Hon F. A. Cooper, Director of Public Works; Naval Representative, Commander W. F. Tunnard, R.N.; Military Representative, Captain A. H. Thomas, D.A.A.G. (B.); Polo Club Representative, Mr. D. Landale; Golf Club Representative, Mr. H. L. Dalrymple; Football Club Representative, Rev. R. F. Cobbold; Cricket Club Representative, Mr. E. A. Ram; Victoria Recreation Club Representative, Mr. E. D. Sanders; Hockey Club Representative, Mr. D. K. Sliman; Jockey Club Representative, Mr. Hart Buck (for Mr. T. F. Hough, absent).

At the regular meeting of the Victoria Chapter held on the 24th instant, M. Ex. Comp. E. C. Ray, acting for the D. G. Superintendent, attended by the D. G. Officers, installed the three principals for the ensuing year as follows:— M.E.Z., M. Ex. Comp. F. W. Heuermann; H. M. Ex. Comp. R. Cooke; J. Ex. Comp. G. A. Caldwell; after which the M.E. Z. invested his officers as follow:— Scribe E., Comp. J. Dyer Ball; Scribe N., Comp. A. R. Madar; P.S., Comp. D. Macdonald; First Asst., Comp. G. A. Buckland; Second Asst., Comp. J. Lohead; Organist, Comp. C. W. Longuet, Janitor, Comp. J. Maxwell, Comp. G. J. B. Sayer is the Treasurer and Comp. R. Mitchell the Steward.

Discussing certain prospective official changes in Singapore the *Straits Times* says:— "However, all these possible arrangements may be upset by the appointment of the Hon. N. G. Mitchell-Innes, of Hongkong, to be Protector of Chinese either here or at Penang. Mr. Mitchell-Innes is an applicant for one of the posts, and it is understood that his anxiety to leave Hongkong (and the anxiety of Hongkong to get rid of him) may secure him the appointment. He is at present the Colonial Treasurer of Hongkong, in which capacity it was his misfortune to be acting when the famous defalcations by Alves were discovered. Since then public criticism has not made Hongkong a particularly happy place for Mr. Mitchell-Innes, and he would be glad to cast its dust from off his shoes." Elsewhere in the same issue our contemporary says:— "The people of this Colony will probably resent the threatened appointment of Mr. Mitchell-Innes, referred to in another column. It would be wiser to send him to Fiji, or the Gold Coast, or Lagos, or some place where he could get a clean start free from the story of Hongkong mistakes."

The annual convocation of the District Grand Chapter of Hongkong and South China was held on Friday night. In the absence of the District Grand Superintendent the first chair was occupied by M.E. Comp. E. C. Ray, District Second Grand Principal. The following officers for the ensuing year were appointed and those of them who were present invested:— District Third Grand Principal, M.E. Comp. G. P. Jordan; D.G. Scribe E., M.E. Comp. A. O'D. Gourdin; D.G. Scribe N., M.E. Comp. R. Cooke; D.G. President Committee of General Purposes, M.E. Comp. W. M. B. Arthur; D.G. Treasurer, M.E. Comp. A. D. Death; D.G. Registrar, M.E. Comp. W. B. Baker; D.G. P.S., M.E. Comp. J. Bryant; D.G. First Assist. S., M.E. Comp. G. C. Anderson; D.G. Second Assist. S., M.E. Comp. F. W. Heuermann; D.G. Sword Bearer, M.E. Comp. G. L. Tomlin; D.G. Standard Bearers, M.E. Comp. F. B. Smith, M.E. Comp. P. R. Smith, M.E. Comp. H. J. Watson, and M.E. Comp. C. S. Powell; D.G. D.C., M.E. Comp. S. L. Darby; D.G. Deputy D.C., M.E. Comp. G. A. Caldwell; D.G. Assist. D.C., M.E. Comp. G. Spafford; D.G. Organist, Comp. G. R. Lammert; D.G. Janitor, Comp. J. R. Grimble. M.E. Comps. E. W. Duggan and L. Mallory were elected Unofficial Members of the Committee of General Purposes.

According to the Registrar-General's returns for the first quarter of the present year the birth-rate amongst the British and foreign community was 14.81 and the death date 16.66; and amongst the Chinese community the birth date was 4.81 and the death date 17.21.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the hospitals:—

Butterfield and Swire .....	\$100
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation. ....	100
Jardine, Matheson and Co. ....	100
D. Sassoon, Sons and Co. ....	100
E. D. Sassoon and Co. ....	100
Holliday, Wise and Co. ....	100
Reiss and Co. ....	100
Arnhold, Karberg and Co. ....	50
Carlowitz and Co. ....	50
E. E. A. and C. Telegraph Co. ....	50
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd. ....	50
Johnson, Stokes and Master. ....	50
Melchers and Co. ....	50
Meyer and Co. ....	50
Reuter, Brockelmann and Co. ....	50
Scottish Oriental S. S. Co. (per Butterfield and Swire) ....	50
P. & O. S. N. Co. ....	50
Market Charitable Fund, per Registrar-General. ....	50
A. G. Romano. ....	50
Lane, Crawford and Co. ....	50
Siemssen and Co. ....	50
H. Skott and Co. ....	50
Mitsui Bussan Kaisha ....	50
F. Blackhead and Co. ....	25
V. H. Deacon. ....	25
T. Jackson. ....	25
H. Wicking. ....	25
Right Rev. Bishop Burdon, D.D. ....	25
Cawasjee Pallanjee and Co. ....	25
H. L. Denny. ....	25
Douglas S. S. Co., Limited. ....	25
Dr. Gerlach. ....	25
Gilman and Co. ....	25
Linstead and Davis. ....	25
A. R. Marty. ....	25
Palmer and Turner. ....	25
H. E. Sir Wm. Robinson, K.C.M.G. ....	25
Shewan and Co. ....	25
W. G. Humphreys and Co. ....	25
Dr. Bateson Wright. ....	20
John D. Hutchison. ....	20
T. J. Nakagawa. ....	20
Geo. Murray Bain. ....	20
E. Bowdler. ....	20
G. C. Cox. ....	20
Gaupp and Co. ....	20
H. E. Hobson. ....	20
Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart. ....	20
J. R. Crook. ....	15
Dr. A. S. Gomes. ....	15
Hon. W. Meigh Goodman. ....	15
Lauts, Wegener and Co. ....	10
F. H. May. ....	10
N. Mody and Co. ....	10
D. Noronha. ....	10
E. Pabany. ....	10
W. Powell. ....	10
Augusto J. do Rozario. ....	10
Scheele and Co. ....	10
H. Stolterfoht. ....	10
P. F. Talati. ....	10
G. C. Anderson. ....	10
R. Cooke. ....	10
H. N. Cooper. ....	10
J. B. Coughtrie. ....	10
A. J. David. ....	10
H. M. M. Ally and Co. ....	10
J. S. van Buren. ....	10
Framjee Homajee and Co. ....	10
M. S. Sassoon and Co. ....	10
Ferd. Bornemann. ....	10
Geo. Fenwick and Co. ....	10
Heuermann, Herbst and Co. ....	10
E. N. Mehta and Co. ....	10
Kruse and Co. ....	10
M. B. Polishwalla. ....	10
F. Kircher. ....	5
R. Becker. ....	5
D. W. Craddock. ....	5
S. R. Futtakia. ....	5
C. H. Grace. ....	5
J. W. Kinghorn. ....	5
Kuhn and Co. ....	5
W. MacBean. ....	5
H. McCallum. ....	5
E. Niedhardt. ....	5
Rev. R. F. F. Gottschalk. ....	5
S. B. Bhabha. ....	5
C. M. Bhesania and Co. ....	5
Brown, Jones and Co. ....	5
G. Girault. ....	5
Javermull Chotoormull. ....	5
Levy Hermanos. ....	5
P. Jordan. ....	5
Geo. P. Lammert. ....	5
Wm. Parlance. ....	5
J. Rosselet. ....	5
R. C. Vania. ....	5
M. J. Patell. ....	2
M. H. Katrak. ....	2
C. B. Mowrawalla. ....	2
J. L. Chuttoo. ....	2



There were 1,788 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 177 were Europeans. It is notified in the *Gazette* that Mr. H. H. Kirch has been recognised as in charge of the Austro-Hungarian Consulate.

Mr. M. D. Ezekiel has joined the board of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank in the place of Mr. Moses, who has resigned on leaving the colony.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that the Hon. F. A. Cooper has been appointed President of the Sanitary Board and Dr. Atkinson Vice-President.

The appointment of Mr. W. E. Crow to act temporarily as Assistant Secretary of the Sanitary Board and Assistant Sanitary Superintendent is gazetted.

The handsome billiard room of the Hongkong Hotel has been fitted with the electric light, the new illuminant being used for the first time on Friday night.

The appointment of Mr. J. J. Bell-Irving to be an unofficial member of the Legislative Council during the absence of the Hon. J. J. Keswick is gazetted.

The appointment of Commander Hastings to be Acting Captain Superintendent of Police with effect from the 1st May during the absence of Mr. F. H. May is gazetted.

The Secretary of the New Balmoral Gold Mining Co., Limited, informs us that the following telegram has been received from Mount McDonald:—Crushing stopped for want of water; have been compelled to partially clean up. Mill running on low grade ore. Crushed 108 tons; obtained 70 ounces of gold. Mill returns will improve steadily.

The first monthly rifle competition for the cup presented by Mr. F. H. May to be competed for by members of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps and European members of the Police Force took place on Saturday over the 200 and 500 yards ranges. Sergeant McLellan was the winner with a score of 60 out of a possible 70. The cup has to be won three times, the winner of one competition to be penalised 3 points and the winner of two competitions 5 points. Sergeant McLellan will consequently be penalised 3 points in the next competition, which will be over the 300 and 400 yards ranges. The firing last Saturday was also made the occasion of a match between the Police and the Volunteers. There were to have been ten men a side and the highest eight scores were to count, but unfortunately only seven men of the Volunteers put in an appearance. The first eight scores of the Police totalled 426 and the seven Volunteers scored 331.

The supplemental charter granted to the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China is published in the *Gazette*. It requires the Bank, instead of itself keeping a specie reserve of one third the amount of its note issue, to deposit legal tender coin or securities to the same amount with the Crown Agents or trustees appointed for the purpose. The following is the passage in the charter referring to this subject:—And whereas in lieu of the proviso in the original charter whereby the said Company is bound to keep reserves of specie equal to one third of the notes in circulation at any time, which proviso we do hereby revoke and determine, we deem it expedient to make other provision for securing the due redemption of the promissory notes issued by the said Company, we do therefore hereby further will and ordain that the said Company shall within three months from the said 29th day of December, 1894, deposit and thenceforth at all times shall keep deposited either with the Crown Agents for our Colonies in London or with trustees to be appointed by the Treasury, or partly with such Crown Agents and partly with such trustees, coin being legal tender without limit in the Straits Settlements and Hongkong respectively, or securities to be approved by the Treasury, or partly such coin and partly such securities equal to one third of the maximum amount of the notes which may for the time being have been allocated to the Straits Settlements and Hongkong respectively, such coin or securities or such coin and securities to be held by the said Crown Agents or by the said trustees separately or jointly as special funds exclusively available for the redemption of the promissory notes issued by the said Company, and in the event of the said Company becoming insolvent to be applied accordingly, so far as may be necessary, but without prejudice to the rights of

the holders of such notes, to rank with other creditors of the said Company against the assets of the said Company.

### CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."] Not long ago two military officers named Wang and Yang were ordered to come to Canton to hire soldiers by the Governor of Formosa. Most of the recruits came from the districts of Tung-kun, Yun-ping, and San-oi. Owing to the conclusion of peace the new troops were disbanded, but as they came from distant places they each asked for three dollars for passage money to return to their native places. Their request was refused. The soldiers were in great anger and shouted out that if their request was not granted, they would beat the officer-in-charge. The latter told them that he would go to see the Governor to have the matter settled, but the soldiers would not allow him to go till he placed an officer of high rank to remain with them, for they thought that he would take advantage of the chance to escape. On the 24th inst. the military officer went to see the Governor, but the matter still stands unsettled.

His Excellency Ma Pi-in seems to pay strict attention to all the affairs of Canton, large or small. He always tries to find out what is necessary to be done and what reforms are advisable. He has discovered now that many of the gunboats on the Pearl river are too weak to be relied on for the defence of the country and wishes to build several strong ones.

A few days ago His Excellency Li Han-chang issued a notification to the effect that peace has been concluded and that the people need not be alarmed.

His Excellency Ma Pi-in, having discovered that some fraudulent lekin stations had been opened on the Sai-kiang and Tung-kiang rivers, their dues rendering the price of firewood so high as to cause discontent amongst the people, immediately sent soldiers to break down the said stations and to arrest the deceivers.

News has just been received in Canton that His Excellency Tan Chung-lun, the new Viceroy of Canton, will leave Foochow on the 29th inst. for this port and he is expected here on or about the 4th proximo. The Magistrates of Nam-hoi and Pnn-u are now in a great hurry to make preparations for his reception.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

The Japan-China Trading Company of Osaka are reported to have purchased the German steamer *Vorwaerts* and re-christened her the *Sankai Maru*. She will be run between Japan and Newchwang, via Korea, Talienwan, Port Arthur, and Yeiko.

We (*Chronicle*) understand that Kobe will henceforth be the headquarters of the Russian fleet so far as Japan is concerned. Nagasaki has previously served the Russian fleet for this purpose, but the Japanese authorities complained that the harbour was too small, and that the men-of-war lying there took up so much room as to greatly incommode the merchant shipping. We understand that communication was made to the Russian Minister to this effect, and as the result of a personal visit paid by him to Nagasaki it was arranged that the headquarters of the Russian fleet should be established at Kobe. We believe that all the commanders of foreign fleets in the East have now agreed to the arrangement suggested by the Japanese authorities, by which only two men-of-war of each nation are to lie at anchor in Nagasaki at one time.

"Looker-on" in the *Japan Gazette* says:—The two Empress boats were in Kobe last week at the same time, lying close to each other. The Shanghai boat, the *Empress of India*, was leaving at midnight. At 11.30 p.m. half-a-dozen of the boys of Shanghai, having dined well, rushed up the gangway of the *Empress of China*, which was bound for Yokohama, and made for the smoking-room. A China hand, knowing most of them, followed. "Hallo, Smith," said one of them, upon his entering, "have you been over to Japan for a trip? Coming back with us?" Smith quietly replied that he was on his way to England. Then those Shanghai men used language, and moved swiftly. For the sake of people who dine out, or cannot read, it would be well if the Empress boats next time they call at Kobe were painted different colours.

### COMMERCIAL.

#### TEA.

#### EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1895-96 lbs.	1894-95 lbs.
Canton and Macao .....	83,830	112,560

#### EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1894-95. lbs.	1893-94 lbs.
Canton.....	3,547,932	1,349,191
Amoy .....	19,447,739	21,321,332
Foochow .....	8,140,519	5,883,106
Shanghai.....	25,783,527	24,176,828
	56,919,717	52,730,465

#### EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1894-95 lbs.	1893-94 lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai .....	22,555,223	21,619,462

#### EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1894-95 lbs.	1893-94 lbs.
Yokohama.....	28,777,516	28,623,687
Kobe .....	16,979,951	17,213,605
	45,657,467	45,837,292

#### SILK.

SHANGHAI, 25th April.—(From Messrs. Cromie and Burkill's circular).—London telegrams dated 23rd instant report the market "quiet." Gold Kijing are quoted 7/6 and Blue Elephant 9/6. Raw Silk.—The market continues quiet and except some purchases of Yellow and Wild Silks we hear of no business. Arrivals from the interior continue on a fair scale, but consist principally of Filature and Re-reels contracted for the American and Lyons markets. Tatlees and Taysaams.—There have been no transactions. Yellow Silk.—The demand for Indian markets is fair for the time of the year. Prices show very little alterations. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns from the 18th to the 24th current, are 623 bales of White, 52 bales of Yellow, and 17 bales of Wild Silk. Re-reels and Filatures.—No business reported. Wild Silks.—About 200 bales have been settled at Tls. 155 to Tls. 163½ for No. 1 and No. 2 market cargo; also some Szechuen Tussah at Tls. 116½. Waste Silk.—The market is quieter and no business has transpired. Stocks of good material are very small. Pongees.—Nothing doing.

Purchases include:—Yellow Silk.—Mienchow at Tls. 240, Meeyang at Tls. 225, Foochung at Tls. 192½ to Tls. 195, Wongchow at Tls. 175. Wild Silk.—Tussah Raw at Tls. 155 to Tls. 163½, do. (Szechuen) at Tls. 116½.

#### EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1894-95 bales.	1893-94 bales.
Canton .....	14,914	18,020
Shanghai .....	48,229	56,166
Yokohama .....	20,258	22,491
Total to date .....	83,491	96,677

#### EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1894-95 bales.	1893-94 bales.
Canton.....	8,453	4,103
Shanghai.....	8,885	4,074
Yokohama .....	24,848	15,982
	42,186	24,159

#### CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 30th April.—There is a large demand and prices have recovered. Quotations for Formosa are \$48.00 to \$48.50. During the past week sales have been 250 piculs. Quotations for Japanese camphor nil.

#### SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 30th April.—Prices continue to advance, in anticipation of a demand from the North. Following are the quotations:—Shekloong, No. 1, White...\$7.33 to 7.36 per picul. do. " 2, White... 6.87 to 6.90 " Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... 4.82 to 4.85 " do. " 2, Brown... 4.60 to 4.63 " Swatow, No. 1, White... 7.28 to 7.30 " do. " 2, White... 6.77 to 6.80 " do. " 1, Brown... 4.51 to 4.53 " Swatow, No. 2, Brown... 4.32 to 4.34 " Foochow Sugar Candy.....10.67 to 10.70 " Shekloong " " 9.22 to 9.25 "



## MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The steamer *Ision*, Hongkong to London, 1st April, took:—1 case Hats, 1,400 bales Hemp, 30 cases Cantharides, and 40 bales Canes; for Liverpool:—3,011 bales Hemp, 1 case Curios, and 6 cases Cigars; for London option Montevideo:—120 bales Waste Silk; for Rotterdam:—8 cases Cigars; for New York:—2 cases Manila Hats.

The steamer *Sydney*, Hongkong to Continent, 3rd April, took:—223 bales Raw Silk, 213 packages Tea, 9 cases Silk Piece Goods, 9 cases Chinaware, 100 cases Cassia, 5 cases Palm Leaf Fans, 1 case Fans, 1 case Curios, and 1 case Straw Hats; for London:—7 cases Silk Piece Goods.

The steamer *Titan*, Hongkong to London, 11th April, took:—522 packages Tea (particulars unknown), 2,450 bales Hemp, 216 cases Preserves, 100 cases Ginger, 65 bales Feathers, 200 bales Turmeric, 38 cases Cigars, 179 cases Gum, 20 boxes Vermilion, and 19 cases Curios; for Liverpool:—2,195 bales Hemp, and 16 cases Cigars; for Glasgow:—182 cases Ginger; for Transshipment:—80 bales Leaf Tobacco.

The German steamer *Niobe*, Hongkong to Havre 19th April, took:—50 rolls Matting, 27 bales Bamboo, 18 cases Bambooware, 2 cases Lanterns, 8 cases Palm Leaf Fans, 2 cases Feathers, 10 cases Bristles, 2 boxes Silks, 4 cases Vermilion, and 1 box Fan Samples; for Havre option Hamburg:—20 cases Bristles, 20 bales Hair, 16 bales Straw Goods, and 21 cases Blackwoodware; for Havre option Hamburg option London:—22 cases Cassia Oil, and 62 boxes Bristles; for Hamburg:—52 cases Essential Oil, 376 rolls Matting, 100 cases Gallnuts, 148 cases Bristles, 1,501 cases Cassia, 13 cases Palm Leaf Fans, 7 cases China Ink, 2 cases Ginger, 6 cases Silks, 2 cases Curios, 4 cases Private Effects, 20 bales Feathers, 5 cases Tobacco, 9 packages Merchandise, and 7 packages Sundries; for Hamburg option London:—2 cases Bristles.

The P. & O. steamer *Ganges*, Hongkong to London, 25th April, took:—9 bales Duck Feathers, 2,937 boxes Tea (46,557 lbs. Congou), 11 cases Cigars, 71 cases Bristles, 120 cases Cassia Buds, 451 bales Waste Silk, 50 bales Turmeric, 75 bales Canes, 50 cases Ginger, 13 cases Silk Piece Goods, and 7 packages Sundries; for France:—125 bales Raw Silk and 3 cases Silk Piece Goods; for Milan:—10 bales Raw Silk.

## OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 30th April.—Bengal.—Prices have further advanced but transactions have not been large. New Patna is quoted at the close at \$750, Old at \$760, New Benares at \$740, and Old at \$735.

Malwa.—The market continues unaltered, prices ruling as under:—

New ..... \$690 with allow'ce of 1/4 to 1 1/2 cts.  
Old (2 to 4 yrs.) \$720 " 0 to 1 "  
" (5 to 8 yrs.) \$740 " 1/4 to 1 1/2 "

Persian.—There has not been any change in rates. Oily drug continues to be quoted at \$710 to \$750, and Paper-wrapped at \$750 to \$795 according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna ..... 1,395 chests.  
Old Patna ..... 528 "  
New Benares ..... 370 "  
Old Benares ..... 752 "  
Malwa ..... 810 "  
Persian ..... 1,020 "

## COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1895.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
April 25	737 1/2	750	727 1/2	720	690	720/740
April 26	740	750	730	720	690	720/740
April 27	742 1/2	760	731 1/2	730	690	720/740
April 28	745	757 1/2	735	730	690	720/740
April 29	746 1/2	757 1/2	736 1/2	735	690	720/740

## RICE.

HONGKONG, 30th April.—There have been large arrivals during the interval and prices have declined. Closing quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary ..... \$2.08 to 2.10 per picul  
" Round, good quality ..... 2.25 to 2.27 "  
" Long ..... 2.35 to 2.38 "  
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ... 2.15 to 2.18 "  
" Garden, " No. 1 ... 2.42 to 2.45 "  
Siam White ..... 2.95 to 2.98 "  
" Fine Cargo ..... 3.12 to 3.15 "

## MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 30th April.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARNS AND PIECE GOODS.—*Bombay Yarn*.—375 bales No. 10 at \$69.77, 585 bales No. 12 at \$69 to \$85, 130 bales No. 16 at \$74 to \$78.50, 675 bales No. 20 at \$80 to \$84.50. *COTTON PIECE GOODS*.—*Grey Shirtings*.—600 pieces 5 1/2 lbs. Blue Joss at \$2.70, 600 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Blue Joss at \$2.70, 750 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 5 men at \$3.55, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 7 Boys at \$3.10, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Stag Chop at \$3.55, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Sycee Chop at \$3.55, 500 pieces 11 lbs. Blue Dragon at \$3.70. *White Shirtings*.—1,250 pieces Blue Dragon at \$4.60, 300 pieces E. F. at \$6.25. *T-Cloths*.—2,250 pieces Mex. Red Stag at \$2.10, 300 pieces 8 lbs. X. M. at \$2.17, 375 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. Sil. Dragon at \$1.37 1/2. *Drills*.—375 pieces 16 lbs. Large Eagle at \$5.10. *Spanish Stripes*.—36 pieces Scarlet B.B.B. at \$0.58.

METALS.—*Iron*.—840 piculs Old Horse Shoes at \$2.30. *Tin*.—100 slabs Foong Choi at \$36.70, 200 boxes Tin-plates at \$5.55. *Quicksilver*.—130 flasks at \$112 to \$114.75.

SHANGHAI, 26th April.—(From Mr. G. W. Noel's report.)—The country traders are endeavouring to "make hay while the sun shines," and are being ably seconded by the dealers here, who are busily unloading their heavy stocks to the best advantage, and evidently do not entertain much faith in the situation. So far importers are not called upon to lend a hand to the proceedings to any extent; here and there, however, a scarcity is found in certain goods that had not been contracted for very largely, and the manner in which they are sought after, and paid up for, contrasts very favourably with the apathy shown in other directions. The gradually freshening demand for the autumn trade has been somewhat rudely arrested by the extraordinarily unsettled state of sterling exchange and the further advance in the home markets during the interval, the natives seeing a great chance of being shot at if they operate now whatever happens. Transactions from stock have been on rather a freer scale, but the bulk are resales, the only goods of any importance that importers are asked for being T-Cloths and 12-lbs. Shirtings, and these have been readily taken "to arrive," were obtainable at firm and advancing prices. American Sheetings, also, are wanted in the north, the Tientsin dealers showing more disposition to trade, but are afraid to do so to any great extent. Things remain as they were in Newchwang, the country folk still abstaining from sending in produce, and the goods that were sent up at the close of last season appear to be lying there in the foreign godowns. The enquiry for Piece Goods from Chefoo and the river ports is a little quieter, but Indian Yarns are in good request. The auctions this week show the firmer feeling there is, which is particularly noticeable in some of the Woollen fabrics.

Metals.—(From Mr. Alex. Bielfeld's report).—26th April.—There would be a good deal more life in this trade if the Chinese could ship north at ordinary rates of freight, but as long as the steamer companies refuse, as I understand they do in most instances, to take metals at all and as long as Newchwang cannot be counted up as an outlet for new and old material, there will be but little doing under this heading. For Lead there has been some enquiry, but I have not heard of any settlements of round lots. Chinese are offering to sell Australian at Tls. 4.90. In Pig Iron and Nailrods there are sales from first hands on record and dealers meet with but a meagre demand. 400 casks No. 11/26, Iron Wire; 100 tons Steel Plate Cuttings; 150 tons Rolled Bar Iron, and 100 tons Coke were sold, "to arrive," at private terms. Business in other metals is of a retail character, excepting Old Iron, of which the following auction sales have been made during the week:—468 piculs Boiler Tubes at Tls. 1.04 to Tls. 1.06; 657 piculs do. at Tls. 1.10 to Tls. 1.14; 124 piculs do. at Tls. 1.25; 1,671 piculs Cart Tyres at Tls. 1.50; 876 piculs do. at Tls. 1.80 to Tls. 1.87; 328 piculs Bar Croppings at Tls. 1.95 1/2; 1,241 piculs Boiler Plates at Tls. 1.40; 307 piculs do. at Tls. 1.27 1/2; 1,441 piculs do. at Tls. 1.42; 1,545 piculs Cast Iron Bars at Tls. 0.70; 300 piculs Pontoon Plates at Tls. 1.36; 232 piculs Chain at Tls. 1.43 1/2; 924 piculs Fire Bars (Indian) at Tls. 0.90; 85 piculs Bale Hoops (Narrow) at Tls. 1.42; 39 piculs Wire Rigging (Common) at Tls. 0.93; 406 piculs Round Iron at Tls. 1.76; 1,153 piculs Cart Tyres at Tls. 1.71; 117 piculs Nailrods at Tls. 1.97.

## JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 30th April.—The market has ruled dull and unsettled and we have nothing of any importance to report. The trouble brewing

between Russia and Japan is exercising a depressing effect on the market and investors are hanging back until the clouds roll by.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai.—For the first time in some months we have to report a decline, the uncertain state of the political horizon up north having adversely affected the stock and induced holders to realize their profits on late purchases; market closes unsettled with sellers at 182 per cent. prem. Nationals have further advanced to \$30 with sales. Bank of China remain neglected.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have changed hands at \$66 1/2, and Cantons at \$159 and \$160. Other Marines have ruled neglected and weak.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have continued at \$200, and China Fires have improved to \$84 with sales.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao have ruled weak and we have no sales to report; sellers rule the market at \$31 1/2. Indo-Chinas continue on offer and the rate has fallen to \$45 without finding buyers. Douglas's have changed hands at \$49, and close firm at that rate.

REFINERIES.—Continue totally neglected.

MINING.—Punjoms have been in better demand and sales have been effected at \$6 1/2, \$6 1/4, \$7, and \$7 1/2, closing with sellers at latter rate. Balmorals have ruled weak and have changed hands at \$5. Other Mining stock has been neglected.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Docks have improved to 99 per cent. prem. after sales at 96, 97, and 98; market closes with sellers at that rate. Lands have continued to rule firm and sales have been effected at \$58 and \$58 1/2, Fenwicks at \$15, and A. S. Watsons at \$10, the latter closing with sellers at that rate.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	182 p. ct. pm., sellers
China, Japan, & Co.	\$25.0	nom.
Do., Founders	\$1	nom.
Nat. Bank of Ch.		
B. Shares	\$28	\$30, buyers
Foun. Shares	\$1	nom.
Bell's Asbestos E.A.	\$15s.	\$20 1/2, sales
Brown & Co., H. G.	\$50	\$44, sellers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$2
China Borneo	\$55	nom.
China Sugar	\$100	\$125, sellers
Chinese Loan '86 E.	Tls. 250	11 p. ct. pm.
Dakin, Cruick's & Co.	\$5	\$1
Dairy Farm Co.	\$10	\$6.25, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$15, sales & buyers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$8 1/2, sales & buyers
H. Brick & Cement	\$12.50	\$6
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$36
Hongkong & C. Gas.	\$10	\$125, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$8	\$4.75, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$66, sales & buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$76, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$88, sales & sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$121
H. & W. Dock	\$125	99 p. ct. pm., sales
Hotels—		
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$9, sellers
Shameen	\$20	\$4
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$160, sales
China Fire	\$20	\$84
China Traders	\$25	\$66 1/2, sales & sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$200, sellers [sellers
North-China	\$25	Tls. 198, ex div.
Straits Marine	\$20	\$19, sales & sellers
Union	\$5	\$157 1/2, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$93, sellers
Land & Building—		
H. Land Investm't	\$50	\$58 1/2, sales
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$10, sales
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$1, sales & sellers
West Point Buildg.	\$40	\$18, sales
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$45, sellers
Mining—		
New Balmoral	\$3	\$5, sales & buyers
Charbonnages	\$131.58	\$75, sellers
Jebeu	\$5	\$8.75, sell rs
Punjom	\$3 1/2	\$7.25, sales & sellers
Do. (Preference)	\$1	\$2, sales & sellers
Raub's	13s. 10d	\$4.25, buyer
Steamship Coys.—		
China & Manila	\$50	\$38, sellers
Douglas S. S. Co.	\$50	\$49, sales & buyers
H. Canton, & M.	\$20	\$31, sales & sellers
Indo-China S. N.	\$10	\$45, sellers
W'chai Wareh'se Co.	\$37 1/2	\$37 1/2
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$10, sales & sellers
CHATER & VERNON,		Share Brokers.



SHANGHAI, 26th April.—(From Messrs. P. J. Bisset & Co.'s report.)—Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Shares have been to Hongkong at 189 to 191 per cent. premium, and local sales have been made at 190 for delivery on the 30th current, and 185 to 187½ per cent. premium for cash. Shares are now obtainable at 187½ and 78. The London quotation on the 23rd instant was £43.10.0. National Bank of China shares are wanted at \$24. Shipping.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat shares are offering at \$31½, and Douglas Steamship shares are wanted at \$47. Marine Insurance.—China Traders shares have been bought from Hongkong at \$67 and \$66½, and have changed hands locally at \$66. Yangtzes have receded to \$92½, at which a sale is reported. Straits have been placed from Hongkong at \$19½. Fire Insurance.—Hongkongs have been placed from Hongkong at \$190 and \$200, and several lots of local shares have changed hands at \$200. Chinas have been in strong demand, and business has been done at \$81, \$82½, and \$84. Mining.—Sheridans have been placed at Tls. 4. Miscellaneous.—Business has been done in Waterworks shares at Tls. 170 and Tls. 175, Hall & Holtz shares at \$20, Shanghai Land Investment shares, fully paid up, at Tls. 56, Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares at Tls. 410 cash and Tls. 450 for 30th June, and Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares at Tls. 110 and Tls. 105. Loans.—Shanghai Municipal Debentures of the 1893 Loan have been sold, cum interest, at Tls. 94, and Shanghai Land Investment Company's 5½ per cent. Debentures, cum interest, at Tls. 93.

#### TUESDAY, 30th April. EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer .....	2/1½
Bank Bills, on demand .....	2/1½
Bank Bills, at 30 day's sight .....	—
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight .....	—
Credits, at 4 months' sight .....	2/1½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight .....	2/1½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand .....	2.67
Credits, at 4 months' sight .....	2.73
ON GERMANY.—	
On Demand .....	2.15
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand .....	51½
Credits, 60 day's sight .....	53
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer .....	192
Bank, on demand .....	192½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer .....	192
Bank, on demand .....	192½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Banks, at sight .....	71½
Private, 30 day's sight .....	72½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand .....	½ % pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand .....	7 % pm., nom.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand .....	½ % pm.
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate .....	9.27
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael .....	47.25

#### TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 26th April.—(From Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report.)—Since writing on the 11th inst. we hear that the London "Conference" agents have decided to carry on the existing agreement between themselves for a further period of twelve months commencing on the 1st May, and the New York "Conference" has also been extended for a similar period from 1st June next. Rates for all "Conference" ports remain unaltered, and we do not anticipate any change for some time to come. For London there is little of interest to record, but for New York a much stronger feeling seems to exist, and the last departure obtained her full requirement, while for the next steamer prospects are very encouraging. From Hankow.—The *Pingsuey* is settled to load, but beyond this we cannot find that there is any certainty of another ship proceeding to Hankow for London, and nothing further is at present known of steamer movements in this direction. Coastwise.—Demand for tonnage from Chinkiang to Whampoa seems to have subsided for the present, and though several "outsiders" have been taken up at two mace, the market closes weak at this quotation. For somewhat distant loading nineteen candareens has been settled, and for Tientsin as much as three mace, net, has been obtained. For London *via* Suez.—There has been no increase in enquiry for tonnage in this direction, and the regular supply of steamers leaving this has proved quite sufficient for the existing demand. Rates of freight are:—From Shanghai to London by Conference Lines, general cargo, 40s., waste silk 45s.; to Northern Continental ports, 42s. 6d., waste silk 45s.; to New York

50s.; to Boston 52s. 6d.; Philadelphia 60s. Above rates are subject to a deferred return, as per Conference circular. From Shanghai to London Shell Line, general cargo, 40s. less 10 per cent.; to Hamburg 35s. net; to New York 44s. net; Philadelphia 50s. net. From Shanghai to Havre direct, general cargo 37s. 6d. net; to Genoa, allow 35s., general cargo 40s.; to Marseilles, allow 35s., general cargo 37s. 6d. 45s. per ton of 20 cwt. for above three ports. From Shanghai to New York by sail 25s. Coast rates are:—Chinkiang to Whampoa 23 candareens regular lines, 20 candareens for outsiders; Chinkiang to Swatow 23 candareens regular lines, 20 candareens for outsiders; Moji to Shanghai \$2 per ton coal; Nagasaki to Shanghai \$1.80 per ton coal. Disengaged vessel in port.—Nil.

#### VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Bombay* (str.), *Volute* (str.), *Canton* (str.), *Rosetta* (str.).  
For BREMEN.—*Nurnberg* (str.).  
For HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—*Priok* (str.).  
For VICTORIA, B.C.—*Victoria* (str.).  
For SAN FRANCISCO.—*Queen Margaret*, *Belgie* (str.).  
For NEW YORK.—*Sachem* (str.), *Challenger*, *Fort Stuart*, *Macduff* (str.).

#### SHIPPING

#### ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

#### HONGKONG.

ARRIVALS.  
April—  
24, *Amigo*, German str., from Bangkok.  
25, *Singapore*, British str., from Bangkok.  
25, *Bormida*, Italian str., from Bombay.  
25, *Comete*, French g.-bt., from Nagasaki.  
25, *Habarovsk*, Russian str., from Singapore.  
25, *Canton*, British str., from Shanghai.  
25, *Donar*, German str., from Bangkok.  
25, *Hongkong*, French str., from Haiphong.  
25, *Ormiston*, British str., from Taticorin.  
25, *Swatow*, German str., from Pakhoi.  
25, *Strathnevis*, British str., from Saigon.  
25, *Stanfield*, British bark, from Calagua.  
25, *Hanoi*, French str., from Haiphong.  
25, *M. Jebson*, German str., from Haiphong.  
25, *Priok*, German str., from Kobe.  
25, *Strathcarron*, British str., from Shanghai.  
26, *Zafiro*, British str., from Manila.  
26, *Ulysses*, British str., from Liverpool.  
26, *Haitan*, British str., from Coast Ports.  
26, *Catherine Apcar*, Brit. str., from Calcutta.  
26, *Continental*, Dutch str., from Bangkok.  
26, *Taichow*, British str., from Bangkok.  
26, *Siam*, British str., from Saigon.  
26, *Lyderhorn*, Norw. str., from Kutchinotzu.  
27, *Chingtu*, British str., from Swatow.  
27, *Progress*, Norw. str., from Tourane.  
27, *Memnon*, British str., from Sandakan.  
27, *Kwongmo*, British str., from Tamsui.  
27, *Frejr*, Danish str., from Paracel Islands.  
27, *Lifoo*, German str., from Canton.  
27, *Tetartos*, German str., from Saigon.  
27, *Krim*, Norw. str., from Saigon.  
28, *Duguay Trouin*, French cr., from Saigon.  
28, *Activ*, Danish str., from Pakhoi.  
28, *China*, German str., from Saigon.  
28, *Exe*, British str., from Saigon.  
28, *Formosa*, British str., from Tamsui.  
28, *Nanyang*, German str., from Canton.  
28, *Peiyang*, German str., from Chinkiang.  
28, *Preussen*, German str., from Shanghai.  
28, *Rubens*, British str., from Chinkiang.  
28, *Sabine Rickmers*, German str., from Amoy.  
28, *Sishan*, British str., from Saigon.  
28, *Caleb Curtis*, Brit. sch., from Paracel Islds.  
28, *Sungkiang*, British str., from Manila.  
29, *Ajax*, British str., from Amoy.  
29, *Nanchang*, British str., from Tientsin.  
29, *Triumph*, German str., from Pakhoi.  
29, *Nurnberg*, German str., from Japan.  
29, *Amigo*, German str., from Canton.  
29, *Kwanglee*, British str., from Shanghai.  
30, *Oxus*, French str., from Shanghai.  
30, *Haitan*, British str., from Swatow.  
30, *Tamsui*, British str., from Shanghai.  
30, *Belgie*, British str., from San Francisco.  
30, *Daphne*, German str., from Chinkiang.  
30, *Devawongse*, British str., from Bangkok.  
30, *Oscarshol*, Norw. str., from Bangkok.  
30, *Shantung*, British str., from Java.  
30, *Tailee*, German str., from Saigon.  
30, *Brunhilde*, German str., from Canton.  
30, *Canton*, British str., from Canton.

DEPARTURES.  
April—  
25, *Ask*, Danish str., for Haiphong.  
25, *Namoa*, British str., for Swatow.  
25, *Parthian*, British str., for Chinkiang.

25, *Rosary*, British str., for Kobe.  
25, *Thales*, British str., for Swatow.  
25, *Esmeralda*, British str., for Manila.  
25, *Ganges*, British str., for Europe.  
25, *Lina*, German bark, for Bangkok.  
25, *Phra Chom Klao*, British str., for Bangkok.  
26, *Canton*, British str., for Canton.  
26, *Habarovsk*, Russian str., for Nagasaki.  
26, *Priam*, British str., for Shanghai.  
26, *Yuensang*, British str., for Manila.  
26, *Leander*, British cr., for Takow.  
26, *Spartan*, British cr., for Nagasaki.  
27, *Comete*, French gunboat, for Saigon.  
27, *Priok*, German str., for Hamburg.  
27, *Ulysses*, British str., for Shanghai.  
28, *Achilles*, British str., for Shanghai.  
28, *Haitan*, British str., for Swatow.  
28, *Hongkong*, French str., for Haiphong.  
28, *M. Jebson*, German str., for Haiphong.  
28, *Paoting*, British str., for Shanghai.  
29, *Peiyang*, German str., for Canton.  
29, *Rajah*, German ship, for Callao.  
29, *St. David*, Amr. ship, for New York.  
29, *Strathcarron*, British str., for N. York.  
29, *Swatow*, German str., for Hoihow.  
29, *Tellus*, Norw. str., for Shanghai.  
29, *Centurion*, British cr., for Nagasaki.  
29, *Hanoi*, French str., for Haiphong.  
29, *Nanyang*, German str., for Shanghai.  
29, *Rubens*, British str., for Whampoa.  
29, *Arcona*, German cr., for Amoy.  
30, *Kwongmo*, British str., for Amoy.  
30, *Nanchang*, British str., for Canton.  
30, *Lyderhorn*, British str., for Kutchinotzu.  
30, *Activ*, Danish str., for Hoihow.  
30, *Charon Wattana*, Siam bark, for Bangkok.  
30, *Preussen*, German str., for Europe.  
30, *Singapore*, British str., for Bangkok.  
30, *Serrano*, Amr. bark, for Rajah.

#### PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.  
Per *Bormida*, str., from Bombay and Singapore.—Mr. and Mrs. Magalhães and 175 Chinese.  
Per *Priok*, str., from Hyogo.—Messrs. Rivers and Cralle and child.  
Per *Ulysses*, steamer, from Liverpool, &c.—Messrs. I. Danby, Lammert and Van Beuren, and 190 Chinese.  
Per *Zafiro*, steamer, from Manila.—Mr. Fremaunt.  
Per *Catharine Apcar*, str., from Calcutta, &c.—Mr. and Mrs. Abbott, Mrs. J. G. Clifent and child, Mrs. Waterhouse and child, Mr. and Mrs. Dare, Miss Stephens, Messrs. Gregory, Shrager, Duncan, Craig, Michaelson, Gow Yun Chip, Ramsay, Knight, Arnott, and Thomas.  
Per *Memnon*, steamer, from Sandakan, &c.—Messrs. Korcski, Shaw and Roberts.  
Per *Formosa*, str., from Tamsui, &c.—Mr. and Mrs. Ashmore and 2 children.  
Per *Preussen*, str., from Shanghai.—Messrs. Ind. Nuner, Chow, Sung, Lu, F. E. Reilly, Lu, and H. Meyer, and Miss Kretschmar.  
Per *Nurnberg*, str., from Nagasaki.—Capt. Johannsen and H. Nielsen, Mrs. Mathews, Messrs. Holm and family, Eustace and family, Ahlander, Gleich, Martinsen, Jespersen, Spethmann, Albert Sachs, Takamura, Ito, Ishihara, Ontzen, Rattray, Olsen, Jansen, Andersen, Wentzel, Ehrlinger, Smith, Rhode, Tiedemann, and Miss E. Dietrich.

#### DEPARTED.

Per *Ganges*, str., from Hongkong for Singapore.—Mrs. Leach and son. For Bombay.—Mr. P. J. Vania. For London.—Messrs. J. McDonald, John E. Haves, R.N., Edwin Bell, R.N., J. S. Moses, and Miss Joseph and child. From Shanghai for Singapore.—Mrs. Haffenden. For Bombay.—Mr. F. D. Newton. For Brindisi.—Mr. J. Shearer. For London.—Misses Warr and Curverwell. From Yokohama for Marseilles.—Lord Dormer. From Kobe for Colombo.—Col. R. Alexander. For London.—2 Misses Hogg. From Nagasaki for Singapore.—Mrs. Hardy.  
Per *Namoa*, str., for Foochow.—Mr. and Mrs. T. Fairhurst, Mr. and Mrs. Simpson, Miss Day, Messrs. J. H. Fonzerat and Adams.  
Per *Taisang*, str., for Shanghai.—Hon. J. J. Keswick, Lord Conyngham, Lieuts. R. Alexander and A. D. Bowden, and Mr. E. Lambe.  
Per *Priam*, str., for Shanghai.—Messrs. A. N. Groves, H. Gibson, and A. W. Schmidt. For Kobe.—Mr. Suzuki.  
Per *Yuensang*, str., for Manila.—Mr. and Mrs. Lever, Messrs. Symington, Palamino, Newell, Fleming, McDougall, and the Director of Manila Observatory.